THE NEW GENESEE FARMER,

AND GARDENER'S JOURNAL.

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TERMS,

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METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS,

MADE AT THE ROCHESTER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE BY L. WETHERELL, JUNE, 1842.

Date.	Thermometer. Sunrise.	1 o'clock, P. M.	1 h. after sunset.	Moon.	Winds. A. M.	P. M.	Weather. A. M.	P. M.	Rain Gage
26	44	68	52	55.66	N W	N W	cl'dy	cl'dy	
27	50	61	52	54.33	S E	S W	rain	rain	.22
28	50	62	50	54	N W	N W	fair	fair	
29	50	62	56	55.83	S	N	rain	rain	.43
30	49	59	49	51.16	S W	S W	cl'dy	cl'dy	
31	42	66	52	53.33	W	W	fair	fair	
1	42	70	51	54.	N	N	fair	fair	
2	40	78	64	63.15	S W	S	fair	fair	
3	55	77	62	65.83	S	S	cl'dy	cl'dy	
4	62	78	58	65.66	S	W	rain	fair	.04
5	60	80	54	62.5	S	W	rain	rain	.11
6	47	55	46	47 66	N E	N	cl'dy	fair	
7	37	57	47	48.66	N E	N E	fair	fair	
8	47	50	54	52.	S	S E	rain	rain	
9	57	70	55	60.16	S W	N	cl'dy	cl'dy	.25
10	54	53	39	45.66	N E	N W	rain	rain	
11	36	49	45	42.66	N W	N W	fair	fair	.70
12	42	72	56	59	S	N W	fair	rain	
13	56	72	49	57 66	S W	N W	rain	fair	.46
14	48	76	60	62 83	W	E	fair	fair	
15	57	77	66	7.66	S W	S W	cl'dy	fair	
16	63	82	64	68 5	S	N W	fair	fair	
17	56	71	58	61.66	S W	W	fair	fair	.05
18	56	81	68	71.	E	S W	fair	rain	.52
19	66	74	66	66.33	S	S W	rain	rain	.42
20	52	66	56	57 66	W	N W	fair	fair	
21	50	75	57	62.16	S W	S W	fair	fair	
22	59	84	64	68.16	S W	N W	cl'dy	rain	
23	54	61	52	54.66	N E	N	rain	cl'dy	.25
24	48	72	58	59 83	W	N W	fair	cl'dy	
25	51	74	64	65.	W	S-W	cl'dy	rain	.23

Mean temperature of May, 1842. 52.33 degrees.
" " " 1841, 52 51 "
" " " 1840. 57 97 "

Rain Gunge, May 26, to June 25, 1842, 3.68 inches.
" " " " 1841, .97 "
" " " " 1840, 2.13 "

The last month, commencing May 26th and ending June 25th, has been very cold and wet.

It was remarked to me a few days ago by a gentleman from Connecticut, that he thought it the coldest June since 1816. What says that aged, venerable farmer, who has kept a record of all the extraordinary events of the last 60 years: is the above statement correct, according to your record and observation?

May 30th, Radishes in market, 31st, Rose in bloom—red and yellow: also, Peony. June 4th, Aurora Borealis this evening, very brilliant. 6th, Red Clover in bloom 7th, Frost this morning—vegetables much injured in many places. It extended east into Massachusetts and Connecticut, where corn and the foliage of trees were killed.

9th, Garden Strawberries ripe. 10th, a very rainy day; in many places east there was snow.

At Paris Hill, Oneida Co., snow fell to the depth of two inches. The same in Newport, Herkimer Co. Snow in Boston, and on the hills in Berkshire Co., Mass. It was said that the snow fell 3 inches deep on the hills back of Syracuse and within 8 miles of that village.

11th, Ice this morning the thickness of half a dollar. Bridges and walks were glazed over with ice in real winter style. The canal was frozen over in several places—that is, ice was formed on the surface.

Field Strawberries ripe. Cherries in market.

18th and 19th, Summer heat; showers with thunder. New Potatoes and Green Peas in market. 23d, very cold—overcoats and fires requisite, the one if you go out, the other if you stay within doors. 25th, Thunder Shower near sunset. It is said to be very fine weather for wheat and grass; but Indian corn is small.

POLITICAL ANOMALIES OR INCONSISTENCIES.

We are not willing to plunge into the political sea, turbid and bitter as its waters are too often rendered by party excitements, prejudices, and resentments; but any calm observer can not fail to be struck with the anomalies and inconsistencies, which every where present themselves. We are told even by those who have lived longest, that the times were never harder than at present; and that there has never been more general distress and suffering and want than now prevail in our community. Yet all this in a country, where there is neither war, nor sickness, nor famine, nor oppression; where the taxes are not even felt by the people; where the blessings of education, and law, and order, and civilization are enjoyed to the full; where the most fertile soil under the sun is to be had for asking; and where in the free States is enjoyed as much of personal liberty, as ever fell to the lot of man in a social condition, and a perfect security of the fruits of his own industy. Now, where is the cause or the seat of the disorder and suffering, which are so prevalent, and every where the topic of complaint? Again look at the foundation of complaint every where explicitly avowed; over-production—over-production. It is not want: it is not failure of crops; it is not universal indolence and inactivity.—No, it is too much bread,; too much clothing; too much luxury; too much of every thing that is good; too much personal industry and labor. We must cut off the producers and increase the consumers. Ah! is all gratitude to Heaven, and all humanity dead in the soul of man?

Then again another cause of complaint is, that our farmers are losing the market for their grain and their meat, because of the Temperance reformation and the progress of Graham principles. That is, we are becoming too moral; too abstinent: we are not willing to indulge ourselves enough; we are not willing to poison ourselves; we are not willing to make ourselves and our friends miserable and infamous, in order to encourage agriculture. How selfish and unpatriotic!

We might go on to extend this table of social anomalies and inconsistencies until we reached the end of our humble sheet, but we must forbear. We throw out these facts, if facts they are, for reflection. So far and so intimately do they connect themselves with the condition of our rural population, that we hold them open to, and invite discussion in our columns—We believe for ourselves that the source of them lies much deeper than most persons imagine. We believe that no government that has ever yet existed can cure them. They are far beyond the reach of all artificial remedies. They grow out of the fixed and unalterable laws of Divine Providence, which in its certain retributions men seek continually to contravene. We have had already a great deal too much law and too much political quackery. The diseases of the social condition spring out of the unmitigated selfishness, and unbridled rapacity and avarice of the human heart.

Sir Robert Peel, in his late extraordinary speech on the revision of the British Tariff, remarked that his proposed reduction of the duty upon cured fish, (by which the condition of the poor would be greatly allevinted,) was very warmly opposed by a man extensively engaged in the Herring Fishery in the island of Jersey, who very frankly wrote to him, that "he was for free trade in every thing but herrings. Here is the secret out. "I mistook; it was *your* ball that gored my ox." "Ah!" said the impartial magistrate, "that *alters* the case," entirely.

Cattle Shows, Fairs, and Ploughing Matches.

We subjoin a notice of the times of holding the several Agricultural Fairs, which come within our knowledge, within the district where our paper principally circulates, and shall keep it in until the times arrive. We shall be obliged to the Secretaries of the different Agricultural Societies in New York, Ohio, New England and Canada, if they will give us (post paid) the notices of their respective fairs.

New York State Fair,	Albany,	Sept.	28 and 29.
Monroe County "	Rochester,	Oct.	13 and 14.
Ontario "	Canandaigua,	Oct.	12 and 13.
Genesee "	Batavia,	Oct.	20 and 21.
Wayne "	Palmyra,	Sept.	5 and 6.
Livingston "	Geneseo,	Oct.	4.
Oneida "	Rome,	Oct.	11 and 12.
Seneca "	Waterloo,	Oct.	20 and 21.
Tompkins "	Ithaca,	Oct.	6 and 7.
Onondaga "	Syracuse,	Oct.	5 and 6.

Thin out your Peaches.

The peach trees in this vicinity are overloaded with young fruit, and those who wish to have fine peaches should lose no time in thinning them out; not leaving more than about one third of the number. These will grow three times as large, and be worth six times as much as the whole would be if left to grow. B.

Omissions.

We regret that the articles on Stearine from Lard, Oil from Corn Meal, and Tomato Figs, &c., from our respected correspondents McLean and Crooker, though in type, are unavoidably postponed to our next number.

Scientific Agriculture.--Letter IV.--Manures.

The value of ammoniacal liquor produced from the istillation of coal for gas being fully ascertained, it seemed to be desirable to make a composition which besides other actions, should produce the liquor or a good substitute for it, with the additional advantage, that it should, by its very gradual decomposition, supply the ammonia slowly and in small portions at a time. Let us examine how these conditions are fulfilled in this new artificial manure. It is now admitted on all hands, that coal is of vegetable origin; in other words, that it is formed from the dense forests of the primeval ages, buried and carbonized by heat under immense pressure, and also that all vegetable substances contain a small portion of azote or nitrogen. Now saw-dust is the basis of this new manure, and wood is the basis of coal, according to Liebig; also vegetable substances when decayed from humus. This sawdust is mixed with carbonaceous matters; what these are I do not pretend exactly to announce. Coal tar, as tar, is certainly injurious to vegetation, yet it may, by some process, be deprived of this property, but nearly all these carbonaceous substances contemplated, except coal ashes and anthracite, contain a certain small quantity of nitrogen. To these are added lime and soda; these two, besides their value in agriculture by themselves, according to recent chemical discoveries, when in combination, are very powerful agents to cause the evolution of ammonia; lime is so by itself. Of the small proportion of sulphur added I will say nothing, except frankly to confess that I do not at present see its value, unless it produces sulphuretted hydrogen or in some way assists the decomposition of the mass. Nevertheless, I should by no means omit it in making the trial.

Here then is an admixture containing many of the most valuable requisites for luxuriant vegetation, which, if its own internal action produces gradual decomposition, must be of much service in agriculture. One thing, however, is still wanting.—proof, extensive proof under many circumstances. That it will be extensively tested with various soils and in various situations, there is no doubt; if successful, it will be another jewel added by science to the agricultural wreath.

Reason and experience teach the undoubted value of nitrogen or azote to plants; let us now see what substances contain this, and how the farmer may procure it in the most economical way, for it is no use to explain to him the value of the gas liquor, when there are no gas works within miles of his farm.

All animal excrement, as cow and horse manure, but particularly that of man, contains a large quantity of ammonia, which is azote mixed with hydrogen gas. On the proper management of the dung heap of his own farm, the farmer has chiefly to depend.

It is now the fashion to say that fresh manure is the most valuable, that is manure previous to fermentation, as it is by this fermentation that much of this important ingredient, ammonia, evaporates into the atmosphere and is lost to the owner, although his neighbor may reap the benefit of it. But the farmer can only manure his land at certain periods of the year; therefore, even if it were best in this state, it cannot always be used fresh. Formerly it was believed that old and well fermented stable dung was the finest and richest manure that could be had, and this is now not far from the truth, although some valuable ingredients are lost, and the quantity appears to be much diminished. Let us reason on the subject with the new lights. Fermentation and heat in the interior of a large dung heap, carbonize the vegetable matters, which are then in the most extreme state of minute division; the particles being much smaller than the finest powdered charcoal, each of these minute particles is thoroughly saturated with the ammonia formed in the centre of the heap, and which was prevented from escaping by the manure outside; these particles are moist and cool and packed together so closely that all farther escape is prevented. On the application of these minute well saturated particles to the action of the roots, great luxuriance results; their contents, both of carbonic acid and ammonia, are afforded to the plants just as they are wanted, in great plenty, and in a state of the minutest division. But it is true that much ammonia is lost, and what is lost is wasted, and must be saved. Now good loam is found on many farms, and this is an excellent absorbent of ammonia, although not so good as carbon. The intelligent farmer should therefore pay much attention in making up his manure heap, and as he lengthens the ridge by additions, should carefully cover it up with loam, which would thus absorb the ammonia that would otherwise escape, and become so impregnated with it as to form a very valuable addition to the heap. Mr. Schatteuman in Germany, who has the manure of about 400 horses to manage for his land, in order to save the ammonia from escaping, constantly moistened his heap with green vitriol or sulphate of iron, and as fast as it ran through poured it on again; the sulphuric acid of the vitriol or sulphate of iron catches up the ammonia and forms a sulphate of ammonia, which with oxide of iron or iron rust, remains in the dung heap. I confess I am a little sceptical on the value of this plan, and believe in the superiority of covering up, but it shews at all events that there is a general faith in the value of ammonia. The labor, to say nothing of the vitriol, would be too valuable here, and it is probable that the oxide of iron in any quantity would be injurious to vegetation. All night soil and excrements of man, must be carefully collected and added to the heap, as well as all slaughter house offal, except the fat which is of no value; these contain a very large quantity of ammonia. It is in the careful preservation of these, and no doubt in the useful practical preparation of them, that the Chinese so far excel the rest of the world. The communication of the minute details of the Chinese methods of preparing and applying manures of all kinds, would unquestionably be of the greatest interest to our agriculturists, and it is to be hoped than when all the political troubles are gone by, we shall be enabled to get some insight into their practices. These substances, however, require to be used with the greatest caution; all food offered to plants, except in a state of the minutest division, is injurious to them; the Homœopathic system suits them best, but then it must be given in great plenty and all the time they require it. Thus the ammonia in rain and snow water which, according to Liebig, is absorbed by plants, is in so small a quantity as to have, until within the last few years, escaped the research of chemical analysis; and the value of the well fermented manure mentioned in the former part of this letter, depends much on its minute division. The night soil and offal should therefore be added to the manure heap in small quantities, and spread thinly about, so that its decomposition by the fermenting heap would be surely effected. Green crops also contain ammonia, and must therefore be useful manures. There are, however, several other sources, from whence azote or nitrogen may be readily obtained in abundance. These are the class of salts called nitrates, such as nitrate of potash or saltpetre, and nitrate of soda. Your readers are already informed how extensively these are used in English agriculture, and by the last accounts, the application of them was certainly increasing.

Dumas, in his Treatise on Chemistry, states that 100 pounds of saltpetre contains as much nitrogen as 3 to 400 pounds of animal matter. These nitrates consist of nitric acid and potash and soda, respectively, and nitric acid contains one part or equivalent of nitrogen and five parts or equivalents of oxygen; all the constituents of these substances then, are necessary to vegetation, and according to the above statement of Dumas, which there is no reason to doubt, these requisites are condensed into a small space. My own experiments with saltpetre, which were not on a very extensive scale, gave a large increase of foliage; but I could not observe a corresponding increase of flower or fruit,—this, however, on grass lands would be very advantageous. Yet these nitrates, however, like the former compounds of nitrogen, must be used with much caution, as too large a quantity presented to the roots at once would inevitably destroy them; of this many instances have occurred under my own observation. With respect to saltpetre, it often comes from the East Indies considerably adulterated with common salt, as much as 5 to 12 per cent, sometimes even more, and although salt in small quantities is not injurious, yet it is by no means so valuable as saltpetre; it also comes sometimes in large crystals—sometimes drier than at other times. These remarks apply to the quantity per acre; of saltpetre of fair quality, about 1 cwt. to the acre, sown broad cast in the spring, is considered a proper supply; but if the crystals are large they ought to be broken, as a large lump falling near a plant would prove very injurious on that spot. These remarks are equally applicable to nitrate of soda, which, however, seldom comes in such large crystals, and is often more damp than saltpetre. Of course the more moisture, the more water, and the less nitrate of soda in the weight, so that it will often be requisite to apply 1¼ or even 1½ cwt. per acre of this latter substance. Another source of nitrogen or azote to plants is rain and snow water. Liebig states that all animal and vegetable substances which decay in the open air, give out ammonia in quantity, that when the rain descends in drops through the atmosphere, it combines with this floating and aeriform ammonia, which is thus conveyed to the roots; and that in this way a considerable part of this necessary substance is provided for vegetation. It will have been observed in one of my former letters, that ammonia, although found in almost every part of a vegetable in very small quantity, still does not constitute any considerably part of the plant as does carbon, but that its use is chiefly to assist in the digestion or assimilation of the food which the plant takes up; hence we see the necessity of its being supplied constantly with this food, and in small quantities; in proportion, therefore, to the supply of food, so must be that of nitrogen and ammonia. J. E. T.

Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry, by Jas. F. W. Johnson, reader of Chemistry and Mineralogy in the University of Durham, Eng.

This is an excellent work and contains a large quantity of valuable information; but these Lectures ought to have been called Lectures on the Chemistry of Vegetation, rather than on Agricultural Chemistry, and this distinction is drawn in order to prevent those who take it up from being disappointed in their expectation, if they think to find it full of ideas and recipes respecting the mixture of composts and the various scientific modes of tillage.

Although very far from wishing in any way to depreciate the value of the great mass of scientific knowledge, of which the rays are now accumulating to concentrate in one brilliant focus of light on agriculture, the truth is the numerous recent publications on this subject render it quite clear that before this knowledge can attain its desired practical force, either the farmer must become more of a chemist, or the chemist more of a practical farmer. When this union of character and pursuits shall have taken place, then, and then only, shall we be able to pass just sentence on most of the theories recently put forth by scientific men.

In the mean time it is quite delightful to see with what zeal and energy, with what care and calculation, men of science institute acute experiments to elucidate particular points, and to extend their knowledge on the subject of agricultural chemistry; and as directing posts to the agriculturist, these experiments are of the greatest importance; but in order to understand them, to draw proper inferences and deductions from them, or to vary the application of their principles to varying circumstances, such as situations, soils, crops, manures, &c., the farmer must brush up his knowledge, must cultivate his mind as well as his field. Let him rest assured that in both cases the crops, in profit and pleasure, will be in proportion to the labor bestowed. The chemical statements and calculations or, as we ought to call them, the chemical statistics in this work, appear to be exposed with much simplicity and accuracy, considerable industry has been likewise expended in drawing information from the latest and most authentic sources of knowledge on the subjects discussed in each lecture.

The first lecture contains an account of the nature and known properties of the four chief ingredients of all the vegetation around us, Carbon, Oxygen, Hydrogen, and Nitrogen or Azote.

The second lecture discourses on the substances organized out of these ingredients, of which the vegetable is composed; and their relative proportions in various plants.

The third explains the properties and relations to vegetable life of carbonic and oxalic acids, and of ammonia.

The fourth gives the probable sources of the ingredients mentioned in the first lecture, with various conclusions drawn.

The fifth, an account of the general structure of plants, with the functions of their leaves, stems, roots, bark, &c., and of the various circumstances by which these functions are modified.

The sixth describes the substances of which plants consist—such as woody fibre, gum, starch, sugar, &c., with their mutual relation and transformations, and considerations on the acids in plants.

The seventh is on the chemical changes which take place during the germination of the seed, development of the leaves, roots, flowers, fruit and seeds, and the circumstances by which they are promoted.

The eighth and last, is on the theories recently propagated of the chief supply of carbon and ammonia to plants from the atmosphere, and on the various means by which carbonic acid and ammonia are constantly supplied to the atmosphere to make good the large quantities constantly abstracted by plants.

Here is also an appendix of 40 pages containing the results of practical experiments in agriculture, with suggestions for experiments.

From this brief analysis of the work, it will be seen that the information it contains is of a varied character, and it certainly offers to notice many facts which deserve to be deeply studied by every agriculturist. In pages 146 and 147, there is a very singular result given as of *frequent occurrence* in Holstein—it is, that in contiguous fields, some of which are manured with marl and some left unmanured with marl, the crops in the unmanured fields are worse than if the whole fields had been left unmanured, which is just like saying that the healthy crops on the manured lands appropriate to themselves a larger portion of the nourishment from the atmosphere of the unmanured (carbonic acid and ammonia), while the weak crops of the unmanured fields are obliged to put up with the smaller quantity left by the others, for their support. If this be true, and we see no reason to doubt it, as it corresponds with theory, then the farmer who manures his land well and keeps it in good heart, obtains from the atmosphere a large portion of the nourishment contained in it, which would have gone to his neighbor's crop had it been equally well manured. It is hardly possible to imagine a fact more calculated to give rise to emulation in manuring land than this, and the most delicate conscience could hardly feel it an injustice to appropriate to itself the carbonic acid and ammonia of its neighbor's atmosphere, by highly manuring the land. How vastly puzzling to the lawyers, were the farmers to bring actions at law against their neighbors for the abstraction in this way of the atmosphere on their different farms!

In this work there are many confirmations of the truth of facts strongly insisted upon by Liebig, particularly that of the existence of ammonia in almost all vegetables, and the probability that much of it must have found its way there from the ammonia of rain and snow water, although not to the extent supposed by Liebig; for Mr. Johnston states in his last lecture that much of the ammonia combined with rain and snow water, must find its way in its natural descent, as well as by means of rivers, to the sea, and there be engulfed, —there being, as he states, no process by which this ammonia can be restored to the atmosphere. In this point, however, he is in error, or probably he has not heard of the experiments of Mr. Aime, Professor of Physics in the French College at Algiers, which proved that large quantities of gas were disengaged by marine plants (sea weed) from the salt water, which gas contained from 45 to 83 per cent of Nitrogen and the remainder Oxygen—the percentage of nitrogen depending on the time of the day when the gas was disengaged, the bubbles of gas disengaged before sunrise containing the largest quantity, those after sunset the smallest; several new facts are also added to our knowledge, such as that the hydrogen of the ammonia is useful to the growth of vegetation.

The accounts in the Appendix of the experiments with various substances used as manures, such as sulphuric acid, gypsum, saltpetre, nitrate of soda, sulphate of soda, charcoal, salt, ammoniacal liquor, &c. &c., are of the greatest interest, and should be spread among farmers through the different agricultural periodicals in the greatest profusion. But they ought to be accompanied with remarks on the condition of these experiments, many of which seem altogether to have escaped the notice of the experimenters. Thus a soil of stiff loam holds moisture and ammonia with much more tenacity than a sandy dry soil: hence in the latter, any solutions of ammoniacal liquors, of nitrates, or other substances, require to be applied in a weaker state and much oftener than in the former. It must also, not be forgotten, that the solution of ammonia which nature presents to plants in the form of rain and snow water, is in so weak a state that our chemical tests wilt hardly discover it—and that if this ammonia is given in strong solutions it is more likely to injure than benefit the crops. Now all ammoniacal liquors from gas works are of varying and uncertain strength; therefore, unless this strength were known pretty nearly, the result of the experiment would hardly be a fair guide for others. The strength of various applications is an object of the greatest importance in experiments, as is also the nature of the soil and the kind of crop. Another remark may also be of service. The saltpetre imported from the East Indies is usually adulterated with a mixture of common salt, from 5 to 20 per cent, and also with sulphate of potash. Now in experiments the refined saltpetre should either be used which is free from these admixtures, or the saltpetre, if used as imported, should be analysed to ascertain the quantity of them. The nitrate of soda is probably less liable to these adulterations. In the appendix are also many suggestions for experiments, which are of considerable value. Altogether, it is a work well worthy the study of the practical agriculturist, and if there are many parts of it which he cannot at first understand, this study will elevate his ideas on the subject, and create that desire for knowledge in his mind which will urge him forward in acquiring it, until those parts which at first puzzle and confound, will appear to him quite simple and clear. It is a great advantage to the agriculturist in reading such works, that he lives surrounded by the means of testing its principles, that such operations are his daily occupations and the observation on them is daily before him; so that if he employs well his powers, but a season or two can elapse before he himself will be a better judge of what is there laid down than the writer of the book himself. J. E. T.

Care of Apple Trees.

Mr. Editor—Traveling through the United States, in 1840, '41 and '42, I observed the apple trees were become very scrubbed, and many of the apples inferior in size and flavor. The inhabitants ascribed these effects to the apple tree worm. I believe they are all mistaken. Why do they not destroy the worms; it is very easy to be done. Lime water, or strong soap suds, thrown on them will give them a quietus. I am, however, certain the defect is owing to no other cause than lopping the trees in the month of March and April. Let them alone until after they are out of blossom, and then from that time, until the leaves fall, trim and lop them. If you are doubtful of the good effect of this treatment, just try one or two of the worst trees in your orchards, and you will see a great change in them in less than two years. Instead of putting out suckers, as it is generally called, the trees will grow smooth and thrifty, and the fruit become smooth and fine, with a great increase in size and flavor. I have tried the experiment, and found it to succeed beyond my expectations. The best manure I ever found for an orchard is to draw fresh earth from a distance and throw a few shovel fulls carelessly near the root of the trees, but not to touch the trunk.

If you think this hint worth a place in your useful paper, perhaps some one besides myself may try the experiment. Apples are deemed by many a worthless crop since the temperance societies have been established. As cider is going out of fashion, try how your horses, cows, and swine will relish a feed of those sorts you used to grind up for cider. Apple trees in general, produce the greatest profit for the labor, of any crop produced on a farm, and if well attended, will pay 50 per cent clear gain, on all outlays.

B. K. DODGE.

Premiums for Wool Shearing.

In England, Sheep Shearings are made the subject of spirited competition and premium. This is a capital plan. Premiums are awarded to those, who perform the work of shearing in the best manner, and in the shortest time; and also do up the fleece in the neatest and best style. Five sheep in general constitute a trial for one adult person. Three sheep to boys between 14 and 16 years old. Two sheep to boys under 14 years old. The highest premium noticed is £3 stg. —the lowest £1 stg.—but a gratuity is bestowed upon the unsuccessful competitors. This would be an excellent subject of competition with a farmer's club in the same town, or one made up of several towns in the vicinity of each other; and now grog money has ceased to be demanded, it would not be difficult to make up a purse. After the play, the farmers dine together. This is always, in such cases, a comfortable and desirable accompaniment, where the expense is within the reach of the humblest individual.

SNAKES.

Those who are in the habit of destroying snakes, had better let them alone for a few years, as they are early risers, and generally at work in our field by the break of day, picking up those little depredators, the *corn worm*, which any person may see by going into the corn fields as early, and may satisfy themselves.

B. K. D.

Transactions of New York Agricultural Society.

We are indebted to the politeness of our friend Luther Tucker, of the Albany Cultivator, for "The Transactions of the New York Agricultural Society, published by order of the Legislature." The volume has been got up under the superintendence of the Recording Secretary of the Society, Henry S. Randall of Cortlandville, and does great credit to his intelligence and good judgment. It contains a large amount of highly valuable matter, and may be considered as an important step in the advancement of a Society destined, from its position, the zeal which gives it impulse, and the intelligence which it combines, to exert an efficient influence upon the agriculture of the whole country.

The volume will be extensively circulated through the state, but as many of our readers can scarcely expect to become acquainted with it excepting through our columns, we propose to go through the book, making such selections and notices as we deem interesting and bearing most strongly upon practice.

To the honor of New York, she has not been backward in giving to the country several valuable publications on the subject of Agriculture. We regret that in this case we cannot refer to dates, but they are not material in relation to the facts. She early instituted an Agricultural Society, which, under the care of Chancellor Livingston and M. L'Hommedieu, and other eminent compeers, gave four valuable quarto volumes to the public, containing discussions and information in relation to several important subjects of agricultural inquiry and experiment. Her Legislature afterwards, under the direction of Mr. Featherstonhaugh and Mr. Buel, published three octavo volumes of agricultural essays and communications, which we have always regarded as among the very best papers ever given to the country. In the mean time, one of her distinguished citizens gave the public an important treatise on the Management of Sheep, mainly translated from the French; and another, a Treatise on the whole subject of Agriculture, which, for the amount of useful information, compressed into a small space, is surpassed by no book within our knowledge.

The Albany County Agricultural Society about this time likewise published several useful tracts; but their publications were soon interrupted, for reasons of which we are not apprised. Then came along the Plough Boy, printed at Albany, which we have had no opportunity of examining, but which we believe was mainly intended for a Farmers' paper. To this succeeded the Genesee Farmer, edited by Luther Tucker; and after that the Albany Cultivator, under the care of Judge Buel, and since his lamented death transferred to the very able editorship of Messrs. Tucker and Gaylord. It may be said with no disparagement to any other publications in the country, that more intelligent, useful, and able periodicals than these two papers have been, and the latter continues to be, have, so far as our knowledge extends, been produced in no country. At the demise of the Genesee Farmer by the removal of its principal editor and publisher to Albany, the New Genesee Farmer made its appearance at Rochester, and for two years the strong approbation with which it was received, evinced the ability with which it was conducted. Now, in its third volume, having passed into the hands of a particular acquaintance and friend of ours, we feel some reluctance in saying what we think about it; but we may be allowed to add that we hope something from the lad's industry and good will in the cause.

In the city of New York at the same time were published the New York Farmer, edited by Samuel Fleet, and the New York Quarterly Farmers' and Mechanics' Magazine, which latter proceeded to four volumes octavo, but was in the main a reprint of the former; both of them full of valuable information and useful suggestions and essays.

This has been followed by the Farmers' Library, a republication of several valuable foreign works, in monthly numbers, by Mr. Fleet. The Silk Worm likewise, devoted to the Silk Culture, and published at Albany, reached several numbers under the editorship of Mr. Blydenburgh.

The Journal of the American Institute, under the care of Mr. Wakeman of New York city, gave many of its monthly pages to agriculture.

The Central New York Farmer, under the able editorship of Mr. Johnson, and published monthly at Rome, N. Y., and the United States Farmer and Journal of the American Institute, opened with the present year, and are doing good service to the cause.

A new coadjutor is now added to the great cause in the American Agriculturist, of which we have been favored with the April number, published monthly in New York city, 16 pages octavo, at one dollar per year, edited by A. B. & R. L. Allen; and promising from what we have seen, efficient and intelligent aid to the improvement of our Live Stock in particular, and the general interests of an Improved Husbandry. We most heartily wish them success.

In addition to these, Messrs. Wiley & Putnam of New York, bookseller and publishers, have issued several highly valuable publications on Agriculture and Horticulture, and design to keep the press warm.

In the production, therefore, of agricultural information and knowledge, New York may justly lay claim to the credit of having contributed no inferior share. We trust she will continue to go on in this important career every year with increased spirit and intelligence. Agriculture is her great interest; here her resources are immense; and we had almost said it may require centuries fully to develope them. Every forward step in the subjugation of her uncultivated territory, in the improvement of that which is already subdued, and in the increase of her productive powers, must essentially advance her prosperity, her wealth, her independence, and, above all, the general comfort of her rapidly increasing population.

The volume commences with a general history of the New York State Agricultural Society; the Cattle Show and Fair at Syracuse, and the proceedings of the Society at its annual winter meeting in Albany, with the address of Mr. Nott, the President of the Society, on that occasion. These have been already given to the public through our own columns and those of the Cultivator.

These are followed by the Reports of several of the County Societies, of their condition, prospects, and the use they made of their funds and the bounty of the state. Societies were organized in thirty-two of the counties of the state, but only nine have made returns of their proceedings, and these returns are very partial and imperfect.

Tompkins County.—From the return of the Society of the County of Tompkins, reports are given on the subject of Live Stock and the cultivation of Corn and Beets.

The report on Live Stock highly approves the Improved Durham Short Horn. For size and symmetry, for early maturity and an aptitude to take on flesh of the best quality, as well as their production in milk, the committe pronounce decisively upon their superiority; but they have some hesitation in recommending them for oxen.

From the style of this report we are inclined to regard it not so much the result of actual observation and personal experience, as of general and popular impression. We have seen only one yoke of pure full bloods, but we have seen several pair of half bloods, which were powerful, quick, and perfectly well trained, and we know no reason why they should not make as good oxen as any.

The committee proceed to denounce the Yorkshire breed, by some persons mistaken for the Durham, as a race by no means to be esteemed. They fat poorly; do not tallow well; their meat is not good and they are bad milkers.

In some parts of the country this kind of stock remains; but they are not approved. The farmers in Tompkins are certainly not alone in this decision.

Crops.—Four crops of corn are reported to have been presented for premium. Three kinds are mentioned as having been cultivated.

The Dutton, planted in hills four feet apart each way gave 113 bushels of corn and three tons of fodder to the acre.

The Brown Corn produced 105 bushels of corn and two tons of fodder.

The China Tree Corn produced 90 bushels of corn and four tons of fodder.

The Brown Corn, but for some mismanagement, it was thought would have produced the largest crop. The China Tree Corn is pronounced too late for our climate. The mode of harvesting was by cutting up and stacking, when sufficiently glazed.

A second account is given of producing 92 bushels of corn per acre

This was on a clover lay manured the previous season. The account of cultivating this acre is thus stated:

92½ bushels of corn at 50 cents,	39,25
Two loads of stalks at 2 dollars,	4,00
	50,25
Expense of cultivation,	14,05
Use of land, profit, &c. &c.	$36,20

Sugar Beets.

One plat of ¼ acre yielded at the rate of 790 bushels per acre.

On plat of ¼ acre yielded at the rate of 596 bushels per acre.

One plat of ¼ acre yielded at the rate of 502 bushels per acre.

Orange County.—The Report of the Orange County Agricultural Society is only remarkable for Mr. *Bull's* account of his method of raising calves. This is certainly high authority, as who should know better than he?

The *Orleans County* Agricultural Society report a premium on a crop of Corn of 112 bushels and 30 quarts per acre:

And of potatoes of 700 bushels per acre.

The potatoes were planted upon a low piece of "rich mucky ground never before planted, and had been used for a hog pasture two years previously." The potatoes were planted "*close together* one way and *about* two feet and a half the other." This account is not *remarkably definite*, and the mode of measuring is not given; this we should have been glad to have known.

The corn succeeded corn on the same land; and the preparation was merely splitting the hills of the preceding crop and turning a back furrow and planting on the ridge. No manure was put on the land. "It was a lowish piece of ground inclining to muck. Two bushels of plaster were used upon it." We should here likewise have been glad to know how the amount of yield was determined, at what season it was ascertained, and in what mode the plaster was applied.

Butter.—To these statements is subjoined an account of a mode of making butter, which being thus presented by the Society, we infer is approved by them. They state "that milk set in wooden keelers or tubs will probably yield the most cream, but not the

sweetest." Why it should yield more cream than in tin pans we shall certainly undertake to give no reason, until we know the fact, which at present we distrust. The sweetness of the cream will depend, we believe, upon the dairy maid, upon plenty of water among the pans, and somewhat upon the use she makes of her elbow-joints. He advises to use three fourths of an ounce of good loaf sugar to a pound of butter.—this we utterly protest against. The butter is injured by the application of any thing but the purest salt.

The contributions for premiums in Oneida county are highly liberal, amounting to 678 dollars—from the state $255—from subscriptions $423.

Niagara County Society. Indian Corn —A premium on a crop of corn of 109 bushels 44 pounds to the acre, and for a crop of oats of 92½ bushels per acre. No account is given of the mode of cultivation; but we have another account of a premium crop of corn of 71 bushels per acre and six hundred pumpkins on the same land. We think it quite too late in the day to give a premium on 71 bushels of corn, unless there is something peculiar or extraordinary in the cultivation. We should be glad to know the opinions of farmers on the expediency of cultivating either pumpkins or turnips with corn.

Washington County Agricultural Society takes the lead of all others in regard to crops; and announces the largest crop of corn ever recorded in the country within our knowledge.

Job Eldridge produced 122 baskets of corn on an acre, each basket 1 15-32 bushels strict measure, which if there be no error in our reckoning, would be equal to 179 bushels 6 quarts to an acre. This statement will be received, we apprehend, with some incredulity; and we can only express the wish that it had been more fully certified. We do not deny its possibility, for we have not reached the end of our line yet; but, but, but,——we should like to have done it, or to have seen it done.

To Peleg Sherman likewise was awarded a premium for 806⅝ bushels of potatoes to an acre. This was a magnificent crop; but the committee are careful to express in a note their chagrin at the imperfect manner in which the amount of crop was verified. The mode of measuring, that is finding that six hills would make a bushel, and then counting the number of hills on the acre, is altogether uncertain and objectionable. We should be very glad to know how they arrived in the case by such a mode, to the fractional exactness of two thirds of a bushel.

We do not, however, deem the statement absolutely incredible, as we have the assurance of one of the best farmers and best men in the country, that he assisted in the cultivation and harvesting of 4000 bushels of potatoes from five acres of land.

Eight premium crops are mentioned in this case, but with the exception of Mr. Sherman's statement in a note, no account whatever is given of the modes of cultivation. To know *how* a thing may be done seems in these cases to be much more important than the simple fact that it has been done.

We shall pursue the examination of these papers on a future occasion.

Wool Growing.

The subjoined article is from the Boston Cultivator of June 4th, whose editor, H. G. Meriam, whether his views be right or wrong, is entitled to the highest credit for the ability and zeal with which he advocates what he deems the best interests of the Farmer. We are not prepared to enter upon this subject at this time, but the facts which are stated here certainly deserve the most serious consideration. It is obvious how difficult it must be under any protective system, to adjust harmoniously and satisfactorily all the diversified and conflicting interests, where, in respect to many of them, one can live only by eating up an other.

Facts which have recently come to our knowledge, make it our duty to call the attention of the public and our legislators to the condition and prospects of our wool growers. Wool growing has already become a great business in the United States, millions of capital are already invested, the resources of this vast country, especially the far west, have not as yet begun to be developed in Sheep-husbandry—though our annual wool product now exceeds fifty million pounds, and *has been* worth about $20,000,000. The number of Sheep in Vermont exceeds thirteen hundred thousand—in New York, five millions three hundred thousand—in Pennsylvania, three millions three hundred thousand, and in Virginia, twelve hundred thousand, and in Ohio, nineteen hundred thousand.

Now what are the prospects of this vast and growing business of the country? It is evident to every man of sense, that the whole depends upon an adequate market. We have before said, that the wool growing business was already nearly ruined by the importation of foreign wool admitted *duty free*, such as come in competition in our own market, with our wool of a medium quality. In this we were grossly deceived—we should have said such as come in *direct competition with our wool of every quality.*

We have before us now on our table, six kinds of wool, *imported duty free*, from South America, furnished us as samples by one of the largest importers in the United States, which actually cost in South America from 3½ to less than 8 cents per pound, and therefore all admitted duty free.

The 1st kind is a long coarse wool about 7 inches in length, and about as fine as the wool of our coarse long wool sheep, and such as is manufactured into carpets, worsted, coarse blankets and negro clothe—and comes in direct competition in our market with the wool of our Bakewell and other coarse long wooled sheep. This sample is very white and clean and may be afforded for 12½ to 16 cents per pound.

The 2d kind is a coarse wool of a finer grade, full as good as the wool of the best of our old fashioned common sheep, and is admirably adapted for a middle grade of satinets, coarse woollens, and common blankets. 1200 bales of this wool were imported into the port of Boston, last week, duty free. If this wool be sold at 16⅔ cents per pound, it will afford the importer over one hundred per cent. profit. This wool by comparison is full as fine as the wool we took from a half Dishley and half Irish corset ewe but not quite so long, and may be made as white as the driven snow, by washing alone, as we know by actual experiment.

The 3d is full as fine as our best half blooded merino wool, and may be cleaned, as the importer told us, from 1½ to two cents per pound, either by hand or machinery. This wool is good enough for the second grade of broadcloths, cassimeres, flannels, and the first class of satinets, and may be imported so that it shall not cost the manufacturer, when perfectly cleaned, twenty cents per pound.

The 4th, same grade, full of burrs and dirt, may be cleaned for two cents per pound, and may be purchased abroad at the lowest rate above stated.

The 5th, is a sample of wool of about the same grade as the above, short and fine, cleansed in South America, very white and clean. We were surprised when the importer assured us, that this very wool *was imported duty free*, and cost in South America, positively less than 8 cents per pound.

The 6th is very similar to pure merino wool, and the sample which we have washed in hot soap suds, has become beautifully white and clean. This wool compares well with some samples we have from the Hon Isaac C Bates' flock, and others of the western part of this State. So fine was this wool, that when compared with Mr. Bates' wool, we were unable to decide which was the finest, and so we called in a third person, who declared Mr. Bates' a little the finest, but the difference was trifling. This wool was *imported duty free*, while the very *cloths* manufactured from this wool, by the compromise act, have been protected by a duty ranging from 50 to 21½ per cent, down to June 1842. Is this *the justice our public men render unto the farmer?* If so, tell us what you will call *injustice.*

Our annual product of wool is just about equal to our annual consumption, and under a just tariff giving the farmer an equal protection with the manufacturer, sheep husbandry would expand equally with our manufactories, and the farmers grow rich equally fast.

Much of South America is very favorable to sheep husbandry. One hundred sheep may be raised there as cheap and easy as ten in New England. They may graze the year round in cheap pastures, and are consequently less subject to disease, and seldom die except from severe storms and old age. Aware of these facts, enterprising men from New England and other parts of the world, have gone out to South America, and engaged largely in wool-growing, and who, by judicious crossings, have produced the fine wool of which we have spoken.

These facts have led us to alter our views in relation to the amount of duty proposed to be put on *this* wool *now imported duty free.* The Hon. Isaac C. Bates' wool, being the clip of 1841, is now stored and unsold in the city of Boston, and if we are correctly informed, cannot now command an offer of one half so much as it sold for four or five years ago, so great has been the improvement and increase of South American wool, and the facilities for cleaning it. The twenty per cent duty proposed by the Secretary of the Treasury, on these wools, purchased for less than eight cents per pound abroad, *will not* save our wool growing farmers from *absolute destruction* and *ruin, and cannot fail to prostrate this department of agriculture throughout the United States.* For what does 20 per cent on wool, which costs in South America 5 cents per pound, amount to, *as a protection* of our wool growers, against this immense and *now ruinous* competition. One dollar on 100 pounds—*just nothing.*

The Secretary of the Treasury is certainly mistaken, when he estimates the annual amount of this wool imported, at 9,303,992 pounds, for there was imported into the port of Boston *alone*, in 1841, by an actual account, which we obtained from the vigilant collector, 6,858,957 pounds, and we are assured by an extensive importer, who is thoroughly acquainted with this whole subject, and the amount of importations in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore; and he says there is as much imported into New York as Boston, and that the annual and increasing importation, is from 15 to 17,000,000 pounds per annum. This accounts for the great glut and falling of prices in the wool market.

That this subject may be understood at Washington, we shall send on a card containing each kind of wool of which we have spoken, also the sample, which we were told was from one of the fleeces of the Hon. Isaac C Bates' flock—one sample from Mr. Strong's flock, to some Hon. Senator, with a *particular request* that he shall exhibit it to his colleagues, and thus we shall soon know who there are there worthy of the votes of farmers, or true to the great and leading interests of the whole people.

Baltimore Wool.

Transactions in wool to a considerable extent have taken place during the week, among which we note a sale of 10,000 pounds Saxony and Merino fleece, washed, at 26 cents, 6 months. Sales also of three quarter to full blood Merino at 33 cents on time, and of unwashed at 16 to 18 cents. We note sales also of washed Native to quarter blood Merino, at 20 to 28 cents, as in quality.

Productive Sheep.

☞ A black fell ewe, sixteen years of age, the property of Mr. Tyson, of the Old King's Head Inn, Broughton in Furness, has within the last fourteen years yeaned and reared no fewer than twenty-nine lambs! namely, one when two years old, and two each succeeding year since.—*Eng. paper.*

Large Fleeces.

Two fleeces of wool shorn this year from Merino Bucks owned by Jesse Harroun, Ogden, Monroe Co., of two year's growth, weighed together 23 lbs 13 oz.

One fleece from a Merino Buck owned by Mills Landon of the same place, of one year's growth, weighed ten pounds.

The above wool was of fine quality, washed and neatly done up.

NEW YORK MARKET, Saturday, June 25.

FLOUR—A sale of 500 bbls good brand Genesee, was made at $5,87½. Shippers are willing to take large parcels at that rate, but cannot find it. From the East the demand is limited. We quote Genesee $5 87½ a 5 94; Ohio flat-hoop, 5 87½; round Michigan 5 87½; Troy 5 87½ a 6. A sale of Ohio flat-hoop from store was made at 5 75. Southern is very inactive.

GRAIN—The market is very scantily supplied, and is consequently dull. Small sales Northern white corn at 2 1-2 cents, measure, and New Orleans at 55, weight. Oats 39 a 40c. Rye scarce: nominally 62 -2 and 63.

CINCINNATI, June 20—"Business in the produce market remains dull—produce of all kinds very low. Pork sells for $6 50 a $7 per barrel—Flour $3 75 a $3 87 1-2—Whiskey 13c per gallon. No sales of note for the past week."

Threshing Machines.

We give below the opinions and experience of two respectable farmers on the subject of Threshing Machines; and we add to this an account of a Threshing Machine invented and used in New Hampshire, from a correspondent who has no pecuniary interest in the machine, and whose statements may be relied on. We regret that it is not in our power to refer to the Family Visitor as he suggests, and we much wish that we were able to give a drawing of the machine.

We have an entire sympathy in the views of Y. in regard to the trouble and inconvenience of having a travelling machine brought to the farm; and we cannot discover much error in the calculation of F. We are not, however, disposed to go back to the old method of threshing by flail; at least where any considerable quantity of wheat is grown.

With Y. we recommend to farmers to purchase among themselves a machine for their own use, and to help each other; or as the current term is, "change works." We are not prepared to say what is the best machine or horse power. With Lane's patent horse power, where the horse moves in a box on iron rounds upon an endless chain, we were not well satisfied. It was not always easy to find a horse that would go in it; and we had frequent accidents both to the horse and the machine. Of Pitts' machine we thought well, though we should prefer to have the two operations of threshing and cleaning the grain, performed separately. Page's (of Keene, N. H.) horse-power is an improvement upon Lane's, as the horse goes upon wooden "treddles." Of the two machines recommended by our correspondent Y., we know nothing beyond his account. A machine, including horse power and threshing machine, is made in Hillsdale, in the eastern part of this state, which is afforded for 75 dollars, and which, with four men and a boy, and a yoke of oxen and a horse, or two horses, will thresh one hundred bushels of wheat per day. This is an excellent machine, easily set up and transported from one place to another; but the particular name by which it is designated we could not learn. It is much used and approved in that neighborhood, and by the farmers in the parts of Massachusetts adjoining. The machine referred to by Mr. Lyford, is certainly remarkable for its small cost. We have seen a machine for threshing capable of being transported in a one horse wagon, and the cost of which was comparatively small, by which two men, it was confidently stated, could thresh fifty bushels per day. We saw it in operation, and we know no reason to doubt its efficiency. This was afforded at a low price.

The evil of getting out our wheat all at once, or immediately upon harvesting, does not appear to us so objectionable as to our correspondent F. Because it is threshed and cleaned, it is not necessary that it should be marketed immediately, where a farmer has proper arrangements for storing it. But it is very desirable always to close up such accounts as early as may be, and at least to have the article in a condition to take advantage of a demand as soon as it exists. The objection that the use of threshing machines deprives the poor of employment, is of that kind, which would at once put a stop to the use of any and every labor saving machine whatever.

For the New Genesee Farmer

Threshing Machines.

MR. COLMAN—Having for many years been interested in the Foundry business, my attention was necessarily brought to the various inventions for threshing grain: and since I have commenced farming, I have become convinced that the system now obtaining generally throughout the country, is radically wrong. The system I speak of is the employment of traveling machines, whose owners travel the country and thresh at a certain price per bushel. It is attended with so many difficulties, troubles and vexations, that it should be exploded in all the wheat growing regions.

Permit me to enumerate some of which, that in my brief experience, appear like a fearful catalogue.

When you are ready to have your grain threshed you are dependant on the pleasure, engagements and location of some machine, which travels in your district of country, and which, like bad weather, comes when it gets ready; or when your turn comes, or when it has finished all of its large and profitable jobs. When the machine arrives, as their interest is to perform the work in the least possible time, you must be prepared with from 12 to 14 hands, the machine must be driven with at least six horses, and such a hurricane of hurry and confusion commences, that it is impossible to do justice to your work. To expedite business, the machine is left to run so open between the cylinder and concave, that the grain is passed through in cart loads, and is not half threshed; and it is impossible to clear and dispose of the straw in a clean and proper manner.

If some part of the machine fails, as is not an uncommon occurrence, your whole army of hired men and teams are idle on your hands until it is repaired, overrunning your garden, orchard and melon patch, as they are generally a wild set, and what is worse, will rarely work without a plentiful supply of the *fire water*, unless they know you are conscientiously pledged against this pernicious practice.

If you have a lot of oats, spring wheat, or barley, that cannot be threshed on the same floor, at the same time, it is evident that the *flying dragon* cannot wait for the cleaning up of the floor, and they cannot afford to come back again without the lot to be threshed is sufficient to pay for the trouble and labor of moving and setting up the machine; consequently, you must hammer it out with the flail, which, in these labor saving times, is not to be thought of.

I have given you the *bane* of this practice, now for the *antidote*. Every farmer should own his own machine, or let two or three join in the ownership. In my humble opinion, the great desideratum would be a *two horse power*. Why—because every farmer has two horses, but every one has not four, and every farmer has men and boys enough about him to work it. Then, sir, he can with his own machine, his own team, his own hands, and at his own convenient time, do his work to his own satisfaction.

The machinery is consequently light and portable, so that if he has a small lot of spring wheat, late oats, peas or barley, for which he has no convenient place to house them in, why he can bring his machine to the barn and dispose of them at once; or if he wants some seed wheat, and has not time to get out his whole crop, or if oats are high priced as they often are just before the new crop comes to market, why he can rattle out his whole crop in one day. Can he realize any of these conveniences from the travelling machines?

The machine being a light affair, it can easily be brought into the wood yard, a buz saw rigged to it for cutting the winter's wood, or be attached to a straw cutter, grindstone, root cutter, or grain crusher.

Such a machine, with six men and boys and two horses, will conveniently thresh from 75 to 100 bushels of wheat in a day, and should cost about 100 dollars. It should be simple and compact in its construction; the thresher should not occupy more space than an ordinary grindstone with its frame, and the length of the cylinder from 20 to 24 inches and 16 inches in diameter. The length of the cylinder regulates the amount of power or the number of horses required to drive it.

Almost any of the horse powers now in use may be used successfully with two horses, if the length of cylinder is reduced.

The only machines that I am acquainted with that comes within these requirements, are one made by Ackley of Rochester, and one by Douglass of Skaneateles, who is the original inventor of the *spike machine*; both machines have the strength to stand the power of four horses; but from their lightness and compactness of form, are peculiarly adapted to the two horse thresher. The Ackley machine costs a little more than the other, and is of the best workmanship. They are both on the *sun and planet wheel* principle, and work with great ease and safety. Y.

FRIEND COLMAN—I wish to say a few words to the farmers, through the medium of the 'Farmer,' upon the use of threshing machines. Much has been said and many have supposed that threshing machines have been a great benefit to farmers; that they have not, it is my intention to show. First, threshing machines have been a great disadvantage to laboring people. In many places poor people now have no employment in the winter months, and to farmers themselves it is of no advantage. The majority of farmers do not calculate to raise over 300 bushels of wheat annually. This may be set down as an average quantity. To thresh this amount, including the setting up and taking down the machine, takes at least two days, with from four to six horses and ten hands. Two of the horses and two hands, are usually found with the machine. The hire of the other horses, together with the owners of them, two days, may be set down at $3, pay of the other seven hands two days at 75 cents per day, $5,25, add to this the use of the machine, at five cents per bushel, (the usual price) on 300 bushels, $15, making $23,25. I will now estimate the cost of threshing 300 bushels by hand. A common thresher will, during the winter months, thresh eight bushels per day. This, at fifty cents per day, the probable price of labor during the winter months, will be $18,75. Leaving a balance of $4,50 in favor of threshing by hand. A still greater objection to them is, that it enables farmers to thresh their wheat all at once and send it to market, thus filling the market beyond the demand, and depressing the prices. Such has been the case for the last few years, consequently the price of wheat has been low and little demand for it.

Yours, &c. F.

Greece, N. Y, 1841.

MR. H. COLMAN—At your request I now give you a description of Hibbard's Horse Power and Threshing Machine.

The horse power consists of a light wheel, usually 4 feet in diameter, connected with a shaft 7½ feet long, or long enough to permit a horse to pass under it, having an iron gudgeon in each end. The shaft is set up, varying from perpendicular to 20 degrees, to accommodate the band running from the wheel to the thresher, which may be set higher or lower than the wheel, as the case may require. The wheel is near the top end of the shaft. The gudgeon at the top end of the shaft, runs in a box at the junction of two braces made of light poles, and having their opposite ends, when the power is in operation, fastened with screws to the posts of the barn doors, or any other posts or timbers set up for the occasion. The lower gudgeon runs in a box in a small sill made fast to the ground. On the same shaft and 2½ feet from the lower end, is placed a pully deeply grooved, 16 inches diameter in the bottom of the groove. Thirty-five yards from the foot of the shaft there is placed a pully horizontally on an iron spindle placed in the ground, (a common iron bar usually answers the purpose,) braced at the top. The power is then put in operation by placing a band round these two pullies drawn suf-

ficiently tight to operate. For this purpose a rope 1½ inches in diameter is ordinarily used. Any number of horses may be attached to this band, to draw in a straight line the length of the band and turning short around the pullies.

Attached to the thresher is a speed wheel 18 or 20 inches in diameter, from which a belt is run on the cylinder pulley. A small grooved pully connects with the speed wheel and receives the band from the main wheel at the top of the shaft.

The cylinder is turned from 1500 to 2000 times in a minute, and with force sufficient to thresh a bushel of wheat in less than three minutes with one horse. The cylinder of the threshers used is about 24 inches diameter, and about two feet long.

This machine costs from $35 to $40, and in operation and construction is very simple. There is no doubt but, with good attention, it will with one horse power weighing 1200 pounds, thresh 100 bushels of wheat in 10 hours.

I have attempted to give such a description of the horse power as that you may understand it. I have no doubt it is just the thing for the wheat growers of the west.

There is an account of the use of this machine in Hill's Monthly Visitor for June, 1841, and from my acquaintance with quite a number of the men who there certify, I have the fullest confidence in their statements. Yours respectfully,

S. C. LYFORD.

Meredith, N. H., April, 1842.

Manure for Potatoes.

Woolen rags are an excellent manure for potatoes. The rags are cut up in small pieces and put under the sets at planting; and the effect produced is wonderful. It is a long time since I planted any in this way, nor did I ever at the time make any particular observation as to the quantity produced; but this I can say, that they far exceeded those that were manured in the usual way. It might heighten the effect if the rags were dipped in, or saturated with ammoniacal gas-liquor; at least it might be interesting to make the trial.—*Gardener's Chronicle for April 16th.*

Culture of Potatoes.—The cultivation of potatoes being considered of great importance, whether relating to increase of quantity or improvement of quality, I would submit a method of culture, which may be new, and which I have for some years found to succeed with a second early kind. Of the potatoes to be planted I destroy all the eyes except one or two with a hot iron. I set them whole, and at the distance between the rows of 2½ feet, and 12 or 14 inches apart. The produce has generally been 60 to 70 well formed potatoes, instead of 20 from those planted in the usual manner. Mine had the same management and quantity of manure generally used. E.

[*Gardener's Chronicle for April 16th.*

We have read the above with some little surprise. We cannot say that it may not be true, nor have we any objection to our friends *boiling* their seed, if *they* think it would do better.

For the New Genesee Farmer,

On Rearing Calves.

Mr. Colman—Having seen occasionally a hint in regard to the rearing of calves, and also recently a call for some remarks on the subject, I offer the following suggestions as the most economical and convenient, and consequently the best mode that I have adopted.

As soon as the cow has calved, she is milked clean and suffered to remain with her calf for the space of about 12 hours or to the next milking time, when she is again stripped out clean and shut away from her calf until the next milking time. She is then partially milked, leaving enough for the calf, but not so much as to satisfy him without his sucking the cow entirely clean, so as to bring down the bag and prevent its caking. The cow is then let in to her calf, which will greedily take the balance left for him. The cow is again removed as soon as she has supplied the wants of her calf, and so I continue morning and evening, partially to milk the cow before she is permitted to go to her calf, leaving him to do the stripping until he is 3 days old. He is then weaned from the cow entirely and fed with the new milk of the cow by hand, from one of the 'calf's pails,' and so I continue to feed him until he has learned to drink freely, probably at about a week old. I then take away a share of the cream from his milk, and give him a mixture of new and skimmed milk, say two quarts new and one quart skimmed milk, with a spoonful of oil meal or oil-cake ground, sprinkled into his milk, instead of boiled flaxseed. The oil is worth more for painting than for feeding cattle, I therefore let the painter or druggist have the oil and the calf takes the cake. The quantity of new milk is now daily decreased and the quantity of skimmed milk and oil meal in daily increased, until at the expiration of another week, when his allowance becomes 3 to 4 quarts of skimmed milk and a half pint of oil meal, which will make him look as slick as a mole. The milk is warmed a little and the oil meal sprinkled in, and the whole poured into a 'calf's trough' made for the purpose, which is a stick 3 feet long, 12 or 15 inches in diameter, split open, dug out and legs set in of the right length to bring the trough up to his chin, so that he may take his allowance standing in an erect and natural posture. I usually feed two in one trough and see that they are well matched as to performance at least.*

My calf's pails are old tin pails whose bottoms have failed, which I supply with a piece of thin soft board cut round, crowded in, and fastened with 5 or 6 small tacks.

If the above suggestions are worthy a place in your valuable paper, you are at liberty to insert them. E.

The subjoined is a very sensible article and worthy of all consideration.—*Ed.*

From the New Genesee Farmer.

On Noxious Weeds.

When rank and noxious weeds usurp the soil,
They cheat the husbandman of half his toil.

During an excursion of some sixty or seventy miles last summer through a part of this county and as far as the eastern extremity of the county of Wayne, I was very much struck with the surprising inroads which foul weeds, of almost every species, are making in this new country of ours. It ought to be a startling fact to the farming community in general, that here in Western New York, where the track of the savage is scarcely obliterated, the Canada thistle, red root, white daisy, John's wort, yellow dock, mullen, and other kinds of noxious plants are, on some farms, almost entirely usurping the place which ought to be occupied by useful productions. Although my own immediate neighborhood is not so much infested, yet I plead guilty to some degree of negligence in this particular; and as my own mind, during this excursion, became thoroughly impressed with the magnitude of the evil, I wish to arouse the attention of others to the ruinous consequences of further neglect.

It is a subject which intimately concerns all land owners. Land infested with these weeds will most rapidly depreciate in value. It is evident that when a meadow or grain field is overrun with any of these plants, it not only requires a great sacrifice of labor to eradicate them, but in most cases, if you go into any thorough and effectual process, you must entirely derange your farming plans, and probably for a season or so lose the use of the soil.

I have heard it estimated that the clearing of the original forest and preparation of the land for wheat cost only from $10 to $12 per acre. At how much less expense can a field be cleared of Canada thistles, red root, or white daisy, when thoroughly besprinkled with them? Carefully estimated, the whole loss and expense, I am bold to say, will not fall far short of that when you see the last feeble stalk expire.

Let these considerations stir us up—and I would especially remind those who, from the newness of their farms or the care of former owners, have escaped this evil, that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." If you chance to perceive, in passing to and fro through your field, a single specimen of the above named weeds, don't stop to view it as a curiosity, but attack it as you would a bear; tear it up root and branch—go back to the spot again and see that you have caused complete extermination, so that not a living vestige remains. Let me urge those who, by their own or the negligence of former owners, have pretty thrifty patches of some of these plants, not to delay even if it takes a little time and present labor. Your labor will be exceedingly well spent in seasonably arresting the progress of the evil. As our farms grow older we must expect some drawbacks, and one of these must consist in keeping them clean of foul weeds. The produce of our lands will never come to us in abundance, without pains—we cannot always expect to get along as when

"The earth is young, and yields kindly
——— her fruits with little labor."

But I have spun out these remarks beyond what I intended. I will close by observing that it will be of but transient use for a few isolated farmers to attend to this subject. Unless the general attention of land proprietors is awakened, little can be permanently done, where land so frequently changes owners.

There is now an act on our Statute Book making it lawful for the freeholders of any town in the state, to raise money to defray the expence of destroying the Canada thistle. I wish this enactment might extend to other noxious weeds, and be put into practical operation in the respective towns.

In the counties of Albany, Clinton, and some others, special petition was made to the Legislature, in answer to which a law was passed providing for the destruction of all noxious weeds at the exclusive expence of the owner on whose land they are found. How far this is put in force I will not pretend to say, but if we were all subject to such an enactment, it would undoubtedly be for our ultimate interest.

I. B. SMITH.

Ogden, May 25th, 1842.

* The above mode, by continuing the new milk and adding the oil meal, will make a fine piece of veal. I have once adopted it, and it succeeded admirably.

Fatal Effects of Garget upon a Horse.

Mr. Editor—I do not think it is sufficiently known that Garget is death to a horse. A neighbor of mine was in the habit of giving his horse small ears of corn as he passed his stall. Passing evening before last with some pieces of Garget in his hand, and not having any corn, he offered the horse a piece of the Garget, which it took, and died within twenty-four hours.

Cornish, May 20, 1842. W. W.

"Punctuality.—If you desire to enjoy life, avoid unpunctual people. They impede business and poison pleasure. Make it your own rule not only to be punctual, but a little before hand. Such a habit secures a composure which is essential to happiness. For want of it many people live in a constant fever and put all about them in a fever too."

"Sovereign Remedies.—For the gout, toast and water; hooping cough, ipecacuanha; bile, exercise; corns, easy shoes; blue devils, employment; rheumatism, new flannel and patience; toothache, extraction; debt, retrenchment; love, matrimony."

ROCHESTER. JULY. 1842.

Important Notice.

There is a large amount due us from Post Masters and Agents in the Western States and elsewhere mostly in small sums it is true, but our whole resources depend on such small sums, and therefore we hope no one will delay sending on that account.

☞ *One word to our friends.*—We have a large supply of back numbers of the current volume on hand, which ought to be in the hands of subscribers Will you not help us—would you not be doing your neighbors as well as ourselves a real kindness, by soliciting them to subscribe? The currency is now considerably improved, and bills of most of the states will answer for remittances. PUBLISHERS.

To Correspondents.

The article on E. Foot's valuable and highly improved Tight Air Stove, came too late for notice this month. The article on Onondaga Salt is necessarily postponed until our next number. The communication of M. R. P. 'on the bee-moth, shall receive due attention. The inquiry of R. respecting the destination of Farmers' Sons, is one of the most important that can be made, and shall have the attention which it deserves. We have to acknowledge a valuable communication from G. S. on the subject of Canada Thistles, which we very unwillingly defer, because received too late. Our respected friend S W. will we trust, have patience with us for this month. We forwarded at once by his request the papers to Newport.

The NORTHERN LIGHT we receive very rarely; but we know the admirable talent with which it is conducted, and cordially recommend it to our friends as one of the most useful and best monthly journals in the country.

J. V. K. of Little Britain, is advised to cut off the black excrescences or diseased limbs of his plumb trees as fast as they appear and immediately burn them. If the condition of the tree is such that he cannot hope for a cure, he cannot remove and burn the diseased parts too soon. His communication on Mildew on Gooseberries we shall avail ourselves of hereafter.

An article on the culture of asparagus in reply to a correspondent, is necessarily postponed.

We thank our friend T. T. from Le Roy, for his valuable communication.

We appreciate the good will of an "Old Tutchman," but should prefer to receive him in his native costume. As it is, he "out-herods Herod."

Our friend the Vicar of B. Vt., remembers us kindly. God bless him! We shall not overlook his reasonable inquiries. Heaven send him a Cardinal's robe and cap, if he desires them, or any thing else good which he can ask for short of a heavenly crown. May that coronation be long postponed. Is he the *only friend* we have left there?

To other friends and correspondents we send all kindly salutations. Though not named they are not forgotten; and though some of their favors seem long deferred, they are none of them overlooked or neglected. If our omnibus continues full, we must presently set up an extra.

We have to acknowledge this 25th June, a small basket of the Methven Strawberry from Mr. N. Draper of this city. They are extraordinary. We have heard often of two bites to a cherry—here are three to a strawberry.

We thank some friend for copies of a Letter to Lord Ashburton on the Corn and Flour Trade with England. Its views are highly important and must command attention.

We had been promised for this number by competent hands, a notice of Dr. Dana's valuable book, the Muck Manual, and of Alonzo Gray's book on Scientific and Practical Agriculture, but are very sorry to be disappointed. We hope for them for our next number, but alas! for promises for the enforcement of which there is no legal remedy.

We commend to persons interested, the advertisement of John L Whiting, Land Agent of Michigan. We have no doubt that business committed to his charge will be conducted with the strictest fidelity.

Patronage and Postage.

A subscriber, who informs us that he joined with a neighbor in taking our 'valuable paper,' price 50 cts. per year, informs us likewise, that he is so well satisfied with the publication that he has concluded to take it separately; and, instead of sending by the postmaster, taxes us 12½ cents for the information. We are certainly obliged by his good will; but it is obvious how soon we should be *enriched* by such patronage.

Postmasters are authorised to transmit the payment of subscriptions to periodicals, free of charge to the publishers, and are generally kind enough to do it. Here we trust, we shall be excused for expressing our regret for the discouragement thrown by the Post Master General in the way of post masters acting as agents. We deem it extremely impolitic and hardly just. Take our own case. Publishing at as low a price as we do, we cannot afford to employ or send out special agents. Post masters have heretofore always been allowed to act as agents for us, and we cannot conceive in what way it can interfere with their duties. Now our humble sheet, with the postages incidental to it, contributes annually to the Post Office revenue a sum hardly less than three thousand dollars per year. Is it not, therefore, right and just, for the interest of the Department itself, that we should be indulged in this matter. We hope that the other publishers of periodicals in the country, will see how much it concerns them to make suitable representations to the government on this subject.

Notice of Convention of Ploughmakers.

We regret to learn that the notice in our last of a Convention of Ploughmakers to be holden at Canandaigua, was regarded as designed or adapted to prejudice a case to be brought to trial before the Circuit Court of the United States, at its June term in Ontario county. No such design was entertained; nor, do we think, that the terms of the article warrant the inference. The notice was inserted at the request of the ploughmakers, who called the meeting and handed by them to the printer. We understand it as expressing *their* view of the case, and *their* statement of what *they confidently expected to prove*. What *could* be proved, or what were *the actual facts* in the case, might be an entirely different matter; and of the evidence in the case we know nothing. Had a communication of the facts expected to be established on the other side been presented, we should as cheerfully have published it. In this case we had not even an opinion; and did actually reject a communication in reference to this matter where the facts *expected* to be proved were *absolutely* and *without qualification asserted*. One of the last things we should be willing to do, would be to interfere in any way whatever, to disturb the impartial administration of justice between man and man. Allow us, as it seems to be necessary, to add to what we have before said, *that we hold ourselves in no respect responsible for the opinions and notions either of our correspondents or advertisers, unless we directly and explicitly endorse them.* As his subject is a matter in which the farmers are much interested, we shall report the decision of the Court as soon as received. Our only desire is that the right may prevail; and this is always ultimately for the good of all.

Since the above was in type, we are informed that the decision of the Court has been given against the claims of the heirs of Jethro Wood. Of the particular grounds of the decision we are not apprised.

June 27th.

New Agricultural Store.--Farming Implements.

We are much gratified to learn that B. F. Smith & Co. have opened a store in Syracuse, N. Y., for the supply of the best agricultural implements of every variety, which the New England or New York manufactories can furnish. If this establishment is well conducted, there can be no doubt that it will afford eminent advantages to the farmers of Western New York, of which we hope they will fully avail themselves.

We cannot advise farmers to be in a hurry to get every new tool or implement, which presents itself and promises to effect a great saving of labor; for in many cases the promise is delusive; and the saving proves only an increase of labor, and no little expense. We advise them not to purchase too many tools, for the use of them will be troublesome, and the more they are multiplied the less care is likely to be taken of them. We advise farmers not to purchase any implements or machines, which promise to do half a dozen things by the same operation, for in this case they are generally complicated and liable to get out of order, and if out of order, not easily mended or repaired. Besides they seldom do many things well. We advise farmers likewise to remember that the best of all machines is the human hand, when guided by a sound judgment and a clear eye. But then we advise them to obtain all such implements as are necessary for the proper management of their business, and never to live by borrowing, which is generally the meanest of all ways of getting along, and makes a man a perfect nuisance to his neighborhood. We advise them to get the best tools and to keep them in the best order. We remind them that there may be a great saving in the kind of ploughs which they use, some doing the work far better than others, being handled with much more ease; and requiring perhaps not half the power of draft which some others require. We remind them that a good sowing machine may enable them to sow their grain much more evenly than they could otherwise do it, and with a great saving of seed. We remind them that a cutting machine of the best kind will enable them to save certainly a third of their hay; and their cattle, if well fed in this way, will be in better health and condition than when fed wholly upon long feed. We advise them by all means to have a good roller, a very rare and yet one of the most useful implements on a farm, for sinking the seed, for forcing the stones into the ground where there are stones, so that they may be out of the way of the scythe, for crushing the clods so that the tilth may be made finer and for leaving the land in a clean and handsome condition. We advise, likewise, to a farmer's having a revolving horse-rake wherever his land admits of its use, as saving, when well managed, at least two thirds of the labor. So we might go on with further counsel, but this will do for a beginning. Whatever a farmer gets, let it be of the best quality. We do not mean that his plough should have either gilt or mahogany handles; but we would have it made of the best materials, in the neatest, strongest, and most substantial manner; and if it should be painted and kept well painted, and slightly

ornamented, having for example a neatly curved handle, instead of coarse straight ones, or otherwise made handsomer without any increase of expense, there is hardly a boor in the country so rude that he would not, let him say what he pleases, on this very account value it the more highly and use it the more carefully. We were going to add what every man will say he knew well enough before, and what some grumblers will complain that they do not see why they should pay for it again; we were going to add, "have a place for every thing and every thing in its place," but we will not add it, but leave it to suggest itself to every reflecting man's own mind. He will then value it the more, as thinking it the fruit of his own wise cogitations. We will say, however, let it come from where it will, it is one of the best rules that was ever thought of.

Hatch's Sowing Machine.

The following letter was written to Mr Batcham by a friend in Ohio to whom he sent one of Hatch's Sowing Machines; and as the fall sowing season is at hand, many of our readers will find it interesting in connection with the advertisement on our last page We have not yet had an opportunity of personally witnessing the opperation of this machine, but we learn that it is rapidly gaining favor among farmers in this region, and quite a number have been sold of late.—*Ed.*

(The *Straw Cutter* mentioned by the same writer, in another column of this paper, is Gilson's Patent, manufactured by Joseph Hall of this city.)—*Ed.*

Mr. Batcham—I have just finished using for this spring, the splendid Sowing Machine which you forwarded me last fall, and I must confess that it has exceeded all my expectations, and those of my neighbors who witnessed its operation. I went to the first field with my grass seed with a doubting heart, and when I looked at the machine and then at the diminutive size of the seed it was to sow, my faith was in no wise strengthened. But I out with my letter of instructions, made my calculations how much seed it would take to sow one *bout*, measured it out exactly, turned it into the hopper, mounted the chair and drove off. leaving my friends who came to witness the operation *grinning* like so many *Cheshire cats*. First bout my seed was out when within about two rods of the end. Regulated the screw, poured in the quantum suf. of seed, and at the end had about half pint left. Third bout,—started the regulating screw a very little, and it came out as even as you ever had your *pie and cheese*. I then turned into the hopper, from time to time, as became necessary, without measuring, having previously measured out the quantity of seed for the lot, and when I got through I had about one quart left. The sowing of the lot (6 acres) occupied about two hours.

The wind blew considerably, but I could not discover that it affected the seed, the hopper running so near the ground that the dropping seed was not disturbed sufficiently to do the least injury. A boy that can drive a horse and otherwise possessed of ordinary judgment, can use it, and when properly regulated it cannot sow wrong. I have tried it with oats with equal success; and wheat, flax seed, plaster, &c., can also be sown with it. It certainly is a very valuable machine, and ought to be in the possession of every farmer who has much work of the kind every year.

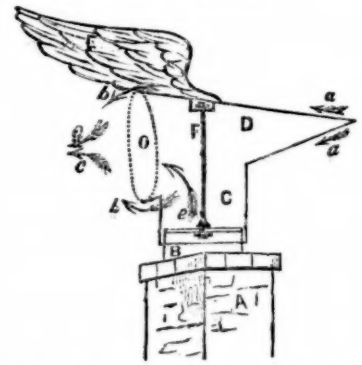
J. W. SMITH.

Kraggs Farm, Maumee City, O., 1842.

Espy's Conical Ventilator.

Mr. Espy, the gentleman who has, with much success, been delivering lectures through the country on the Philosophy of Storms, has recently invented a machine for the purpose of remedying the evil of smoky chimnies. We give a plate of it below. Where it has been tried it is said to have been effectual. From the description, we should have strong confidence in its success. If effectual, Mr. Espy will be entitled to rank among the distinguished benefactors of mankind, as obviating one of the two great acknowledged evils of this world—the one a smoky house, the other a scolding ——— ah! but we won't say; we have not the heart to wound the feelings of any of our kind subscribers by awakening disagreeable associations.

We copy the plate and the description from that valuable publication, the American Mechanic, printed in New York. Rufus Porter, editor.



A sectional view of Mr. Espy's Invention for ventilating Ships, Hospitals, Prisons, Mines, Cisterns, Vats, Stoves, &c.—also for producing a strong draft in Chimnies, flues of Steamboats, Locomotives, &c.

Description.—A, denotes the chimney. B a short iron pipe secured upon the top of the chimney. C, a collar of sheet iron fitting loosely over the pipe B. D, a hollow cone, also made of sheet iron, into which the collar C. enters. E, a vane, to keep the cone pointed to the wind. F, a perpendicular iron rod, on which the cone and collar revolve. *a, a, b, b, c, c,* and *e*, arrows showing the course of the current of air.

Now suppose the wind to blow in the direction of the arrows *a, a*,—it will pass along the surface of the cone to its base, when it will converge as represented by arrows *b, b*, and *c, c*, and produce a vacuum at O, the open end of the cone, thereby causing a strong current of air to rush up the chimney A, in the direction of the arrow *e*.

Scotch Yellow Turnips.

The proprietor of the Rochester Seed Store has imported from Scotland, seeds of some of the finest varieties of Yellow Turnips; which on trial have been found to succeed well in this climate, and he confidently recommends them to his friends and customers as superior to the White English Turnips, being better adapted to old or light soils, more nutritious, and of firmer texture (consequently keep longer). They are fine for the table as well as for stock.

Those who have delayed sowing Ruta Bagas till too late, or have had them destroyed by the fly, will find the Yellow Turnips a good substitute. The following kinds are the most valuable:

Large Yellow Aberdeen or Bullock, Yellow Oxheart, Yellow Globe, Dale's Hybrid, Hood's New Yellow. The Red Round is particularly recommended for light soils It is a white turnip with a red top.

M. B. B.

Canada Thistles.

This communication deserves particular attention.

Mr. Henry Colman—An allusion appears to be made in the May number of the New Genesee Farmer, to a conversation with you when you was in this place, some little time since, relative to the destruction of that pest, the Canada Thistle.

The way of doing it, which is both sure and certain and attended with but little expense, would be profitably expended in any land infested with any foul weeds or worn down by shallow ploughings. All the foul seeds in the ground would sprout and be destroyed and the ground be left in first rate order for wheat, or almost any other crop; and if the ploughings could be made twelve inches deep, the wheat would not be much liable to get winter killed. And if the same amount of green vegetation could be ploughed under that would be in the Thistle patches, the good effects thereof would be lasting, as much so, or more, than a heavy coat of manure. In a visit to my brother Aaron, then living in South Le Roy, in 1841, but now Pavilion, I noticed that the wheat on a part of his field was twice as large as on other parts. I inquired of him how it happened that there was such a difference in his wheat. O! says he, that is where my old Thistle Bed was six years ago, that the wheat is so stout. I can feel the difference where the Thistles were the moment the plough strikes it; the land is more mellow, and the plough inclined to go deeper than in any other parts of the field. The way I took to destroy them, says he, I commenced ploughing them about the first of June, in the most careful and thorough manner, taking special care that not a single thistle root should escape the plough. A month from that time I ploughed again in the same careful manner,—and in another month I ploughed again; the fourth month I ploughed it again, making four ploughings, not harrowing *it* at all, that it should be left in the same order at each time as the plough left it, excepting the last time, when it was in high order for the sowing of wheat. Not a particle of any foul weed appeared upon it, and I got as fine a crop of wheat as I ever had on any lands, and not a single particle of a Thistle could be found among the wheat when I harvested it.

I have not the least doubt if any person troubled with Thistles, or any other foul weeds, will follow the method here laid down, in as thorough a manner as my brother did, they would be utterly and completely destroyed.

Thus it may be seen that the entire destruction of the pest costs nothing; it is merely a superior method of preparing the land for a crop of wheat, and that the extra expense will be found to be more than compensated by an extra crop of wheat and the finer tilth in which the land will be left, when the wheat is taken from it, over that managed in the common way.

I am respectfully Your friend &c.

THOMAS TUFTS.

Le Roy, June 9th, 1842.

EDSON'S COLORING COMPOUNDS.

(Directions for using.)

TO COLOR MADDER RED.

Take one pound of madder for every two pounds of yarn or cloth; soak the madder in a brass or copper kettle one night in warm water enough to cover the yarn you wish to color; next morning put in two ounces of madder compound for every pound of madder which you have soaked. Then wet your yarn or cloth and wring it out in clean water; afterwards put it in the dye. Now place the kettle over the fire, and bring it slowly to a scald as hot, which will take about half an hour, keep it in that heat half an hour, if a light red is wanted, and longer if a dark one, the color depending upon the time it remains in the dye.

When the color is made, rinse the cloth immediately in cold water and it will then be finished.

TO COLOR SCARLET RED

Take soft water, sufficient to cover the cloth or yarn you wish to color, bring it nearly to a boiling heat in a copper or brass kettle; then add one and a half ounces of cream of tarta for every pound of cloth; now boil a minute or two, then add two ounces of powdered Lac, and three ounces of Madder compound. (the Lac and compound must be previously mixed in a glass or earthen bowl,) boil five minutes; now wet the yarn in warm water, and wring it, and put it in the dye, boil the whole nearly an hour, take the cloth or yarn out and rinse it in clear cold water.

TO COLOR GREEN.

For every pound of yarn or cloth add two and a half ounces of Alum and one pound of Fustic steep to get the strength, but not boil, soak the cloth until it acquires a good yellow color; then throw out the chips, and add the Indigo compound slowly, until you have the desired shade of green.

TO COLOR PINK.

For every three pounds of yarn or cloth in three quarts of water, or enough to cover it, use one pint of the Pink compound. Bring the water containing the cloth nearly to a scalding heat, and add the compound until the shade suits you

The above recipes will be found invaluable to farmers' wives, and may be relied on for producing good and fast colors. The Madder, Indigo, and Pink compounds are prepared only by the subscriber, who also has for sale the best quality of Dye-woods and Dye-stuffs of every description, at his store, No. 22 Buffalo-st., Rochester.

M. D. EDSON.

OATS.

Will the Editor please state in the next number of the Farmer, the usual quantity of oats sown on an acre by the common farmers in England and Ireland, and also the most suitable quantity for New England on ordinary or highly cultivated land. Any remarks upon the subject which the Editor may have time to make, would be read with interest by a subscriber.

E.

The usual quantity of oats sown to an acre in this country is three bushels. The quantity sown in England is from four to six bushels per acre. The English farmers are in the habit of sowing more seed to an acre than is done with us. Of the potato oat, one of their heaviest oats, less seed is used than of others, because it has no awns, and a half bushel measure contains more oats in number than of other kinds. The cultivation of land in England is very much more careful and thorough than with us; this may be a reason for sowing more seed. The quantity of seed to be sown upon an acre of any grain deserves consideration, and especially experiment. One of the best farmers in Massachusetts is accustomed to sow three bushels of rye, and says he finds an advantage in doing it, whereas few farmers sow more than one bushel to the acre. Of spring wheat our farmers sow usually two bushels; of winter wheat one and a half. In sowing wheat in autumn, a difference in the quantity of seed is made by judicious farmers, as that which is sowed early has more opportunity to spread, or as it is termed, to tiller well, and consequently less seed is required. Where the land is rich and the cultivation good, we are strongly of an opinion that too little seed is generally sown. Where the grain is thin, the crop is more apt to suffer from drought. Oats require a moist and rather cold climate. We have known more than one hundred bushels upon an acre; and an average crop of 96 bushels to the acre, from a field of eight acres. The general average through the country is not over forty bushels. No attention is paid to the selection of seed with us; but abroad the largest oats are sometimes picked out for sowing. We have no doubt that more care in this respect would be amply compensated. A careful selection of the earliest, fullest, heaviest and brightest plants in the field would presently give a farmer a crop much above ordinary. Of the two kinds cultivated among us, the common branching oat and the Tartarian or horse-mane oat, where the panicles hang all on one side, the latter is thought to yield the heaviest crop. An eminent farmer in New Hampshire, in whose judgment we have great reliance, prefers this kind, and his crops for years have averaged about sixty bushels per acre. Some persons allow the kinds to become mixed, but they do not ripen at the same time; and the common oat gets into a condition to waste or shell out before the Tartarian becomes ready for harvest. Oats should be cut early; they are less liable to waste, and the straw is deemed better for the stock.

On Making Butter.

MR. COLMAN—I am no farmer, but have, on looking over your paper, noticed a communication from Mr. Bement in the April number, upon the subject of making butter in winter, together with your remarks, and was much pleased with the importance which he and you attached to it. Butter is truly an important article, and there is nothing that comes upon the table about which people are more squeamish; hence the best methods of making it at all seasons of the year are worthy of consideration. It is generally conceded that there is very little difficulty in making butter during the season of grass—the quality depending upon the skill and neatness of the maker; but how to make good sweet butter in winter, that is the question. Much depends upon the cow, the manner of keeping and feeding, but much more upon the management of the milk. The experiments of Mr. Bement are valuable, but I am quite certain from my own experience, or rather from the experience of my wife, which is the same thing, that equally good results may be attained at a much cheaper rate; by dispensing with the expense and inconvenience of double pans, and the trouble of scalding the milk, and substituting a more simple process. After trying various experiments, she has settled down upon the following simple plan.

In the first place, the greatest care is taken to have the milk things clean and sweet; the milk is strained into common tin pans immediately after coming from the cow, and set in a room warmed by a stove. It stands usually 30 hours, when it is skimmed, and the cream, with considerable of the milk, put into a stone crock in the same room. In 3 or 4 days enough is gathered for a churning; if it is not sour, the crock is set into a tub of warm water until it is sour. It is then put into the churn and converted into butter, usually in from 15 to 25 minutes. Following this method, our table has been supplied during all the past winter with butter so fine that it has been much admired, and pronounced equal to June butter, excepting only the color, which is not so deep a yellow: we have never used carrots either for *coloring* or *feeding*. There is no danger of a failure in churning; never, since this course has been pursued, has there been a single churning put by because it would not come. There has been no witch in the churn, and consequently no need of putting in the heated horse shoe to drive her away, as I have known done ea t. I have never ascertained the exact quantity of butter made from a given quantity of milk, but having but one cow, have been very particular in weighing from week to week for three months. From the middle of November, (a few days before which time the cow calved,) we found an average of ten pounds per week. The cow is a half Durham, 10 years old, from a bull which was brought into this village some 12 years ago from the vicinity of Boston, said to belong to the family of the stock presented to Massachusetts by Admiral Coffin. She has been fed during the winter with a mess of wet shorts night and morning, with occasionally some potatoes; frequent salting; good hay, and a warm stable.

We find a decided advantage in skimming, to take up considerable of the milk with the cream, and let it go into the crock, and by frequently stirring it together. I think, Mr. Editor, that I can furnish a satisfactory answer to the question put to you by your fair friend, in relation to the trouble which so often happens in churning. We have always had difficulty when the cream was sweet; but since adopting the above plan, no such thing has occurred.

Respectfully yours,

SAML. H. ANDREWS.

Canandaigua, 1842.

Summer Beer.

To make the best flavored, cheapest, and most innocent beverage used, (save water,) have a strong cask painted, to make it impervious to air—commence by putting in (say for 10 gallons water,) 1 quart yeast, 5 pints molasses, a few drops oil of spruce—a cask for the aforementioned, should be of the capacity of fifteen gallons, to be without a bung, and to stand on one head; in the other a hole to put in the ingredients—to be tapped about two inches from the lower head; when all is in, stop it tight, lay the cask down and violently agitate the mixture for a minute, then open the cock and a quantity of air will rush in, when it stops, shut the cock, and rock another short spell, open and air will again go in, but not so much; so operate as long as air will enter, then stand it up, and in the course of a few hours it will be fit for use. To accelerate action, it will be well the first time to put in a pail of hot water. It will keep good but a short time, and will soon be tart; then draw it off, if any is remaining, down to the cock, and put it into a vessel, and in time it will become vinegar. To make again, you have only to put in the water necessary, half a pint of molasses per gallon, and a few drops oil of spruce, and shake as before. Air must not be allowed to escape, for if it should the beer will be good for nothing.

Cornish, May, 1842. W. W.

We give the above recipe, which has been kindly sent to us, with our plain advice to let it alone. There are few things worse for laboring men than small beer; for we have never known a case, where it was furnished liberally, that men did not, as Cobbett says in his emphatical way, "make swill tubs of their bellies." It is very much so with molasses and water, modified as it often is by a profusion of ginger. Men, when they get their mouths to the mug, never know when to take them away, and it goes down their throats like water in a shower down the spout. Coffee, chocolate, milk and water, or nature's pure moonshine from the crystal spring, is never swallowed with the same insatiate greediness. We believe, likewise, that few things sooner disorder the stomach and impair its tone than this habit of excessive drinking of small beer, molasses and water, &c., especially in hot weather. We know that success in attempting to persuade men to govern their appetites, is well nigh hopeless; but long observation and experience under hard labor has satisfied us, that if possible, it is best never to drink anything excepting at the regular meal times; but that especially it is best never to drink any thing in the forenoon; that water, pure water, is the most safe, nutritious, and invigorating of all liquids which can be taken into the stomach, and when drank in moderation may be used with perfect confidence; and that more than three meals a day is hurtful instead of beneficial. If one is dry, a little piece of cracker chewed will produce a secretion of the saliva and the thirst will be quenched; or if any thing more is needed, let it be a draft of clear water. We advise for laboring people, and we do not speak without some experience on the subject, breakfast from six to seven, dinner at twelve, and tea between five and six. If something more is needed, let it be a bowl of milk in the evening when all work is done. But all ten o'clock's and four o'clock's are pernicious.

We have known an excellent drink prepared on a farm where a hundred acres were annually under the scythe, and other things in proportion. It was thus; from a pint to a quart of fine oat-meal was put in a two gallon jug, filled with water, and well shaken and kept in a cool place. It would very soon be fit for use, and very soon become agreeable, and always prove a good quencher of thirst as well as safe and nutritious. It is quite unnecessary to say before trying it, that we should not like it. All of us are the creatures of habit and we have few tastes, even among the strongest, which are not acquired, and oftentimes in spite of original aversions and disgusts.

On Retting Hemp.

MY DEAR SIR—In addition to my communication to you on the cultivation of hemp, I feel that I may render a service to the inexperienced cultivator in being more particular as to the proper season for retting. The importance of this has been mentioned to me by a gentleman in the business, on seeing my letter published in the April number of the New Genesee Farmer. This suggestion, with a wish certainly not to mislead the agricultural public, and to answer some inquiries made of me from abroad, has induced me to speak more particularly on the process of retting.

It is important that the retting should be finished in cold weather; if the hemp freezes as soon as drawn from the pond, so much the better. I have seen hemp ponds frozen several inches thick; this is broken up by drawing off the water.

The first of December, in our climate, may be considered a proper time for taking hemp from the water, and the average time required for retting is about six weeks. A sled drawn with a chain by one yoke of oxen, is a convenient way of removing hemp from the pond to the upland to dry. It should be carefully laid on the ground in bundles to drain, and become stiff enough to set up in open bunches against the fence to dry, where it may stand without injury all winter. You will understand that the pond must be an artificial one, that it may be drawn off at pleasure.

Perhaps you may be able to condense something from this that may be useful to some of your subscribers. Yours as ever, J. WILSON.

Deerfield, Mass., 1812.

Comparison of English and American Farmers.

We publish the subjoined letter with much pleasure, and have only to regret that, owing to our absence, it did not appear in its proper place. Its references, however, are perfectly plain and intelligible. We can hardly persuade ourselves that Wm. Howit's account of an English farm dinner can be intended to give a picture of every day's life. If so, anchorite as we are, we must go for American sobriety, or what perhaps our friend would call abstinence, not to use any harder term. In one particular, however, there must be a great difference. The farmers whom Howitt describes, are what we should call the middling classes, the tenants of the farms or the managers. We have no such class. Our farmers, properly so called, are all laboring men; and we apprehend upon a comparison of the tables of the laboring men in England and Scotland with the tables of our farmers, the comparison would be strongly in favor of the latter. The farmers, whom Howitt describes, would here belong to what we should call gentlemen farmers, men who would as soon think of jumping overboard as jumping into a farmer's frock, and whose whole business is to command and direct the labors of others. In England this class of men, who are after all mere tenants or overseers, keep their hounds, their race horses and hunting horses, and indulge in the luxuries, if so they may be called, incident to such establishments, as much, though not as expensively, as the highest gentry in the kingdom. We have no such class among ourselves; and whether the general morals and general comfort would be increased by their introduction, it will be time enough to say, when it is likely to take place. At present we think there is little probability of it.

DEAR SIR—I consider the letter of S. W. in your March number, so replete with errors, that I cannot let it pass unnoticed. I should have answered it in your last number, but I expected that Mr. Garbutt, to whose letter it was a reply, would have noticed it; for surely he cannot find any difficulty in sustaining the position which he advanced, on the superiority of the English climate for the general purposes of agriculture. Now in the first place, I cannot agree with S. W. that if Indian corn could be raised in England, it would better the condition of her "starving population." For I have observed in this country that when the season has been favorable for corn, most other kinds of grain and root crops, and also pastures and meadows, have suffered. Granting corn to be a valuable crop, still it is not so valuable a crop that the farmer would wish to sacrifice all others for the sake of raising it. It is a well known fact, that the average of all kinds of grain grown in England is higher than here, and the quality of some, as oats and barley, is very superior: this I think may be fairly attributed to the climate, unless S. W. chooses to ascribe it to the superior industry of the English farmer over the "ease-loving farmers" of this country. Then there is the horse bean, which cannot be grown here, which I consider equal to corn for all feeding purposes; it is grown to a great extent in England, is cultivated and harvested at less expense than corn, and is an excellent preparatory crop for wheat. Then look at the great extent of the root crops, and the immense advantage of the English climate in not making it necessary to protect the turnips through winter. How is it possible, with our winters, to grow root crops extensively, when all have to be put safely away in cellars or pits?

One word to our friend M. B. B., who has given us an account of Mr. Sheffer's root crops to show that roots can be grown extensively in this country. Now I understood Mr. Garbutt in using the word "extensively," as applying it to the growth of roots in England. Mr. Sheffer has certainly done well, and deserves great credit, but should an English farmer, or any friend for him, boast of raising 6500 bushels of roots, he would assuredly get laughed at. But above all, look at the verdure of an English pasture, which gives a richness to the face of the country, the absence of which here gives to an Englishman, on first travelling through this country, an idea of barrenness and sterility. Wm. Howitt, in his work entitled "Rural Life of England" says "one of the great charms of the country, *dependent on its climate*, is that rich and almost perpetual greenness, of which strangers always speak with admiration."

S. W. asks what would become of our "ease-loving farmers if they had to encounter the cold, sour, wet climate, &c., of England? would they not be reduced from bacon and corn bread, to turnips and pea soup—from the delicious wheaten loaf and hot rolls, to oat cakes and potato broth?" I cannot possibly tell what would become of our farmers, but I can tell how the English farmers fare under what S. W. considers such adverse circumstances. And I cannot do better than quote again from Wm. Howitt. After describing a substantial luncheon, he comes to the dinner. "The hour arrives; well here they all are; and here are the ladies all in full dress. Hands that have been handling prime stock, or rooting in the earth, or thrust into hayricks and corn heaps, are washed, and down they sit to such a dinner as might satisfy a crew of shipwrecked men. There are seldom any of your *wishy washy soups*, except it be very cold weather, and seldom more than two courses; but then they are courses! all of the meat kind seemingly on the table at once. Off go the covers, and what a perplexing, but unconsumable variety. Such pieces of roast beef, veal and lamb; such hams, and turkies and geese; such game, and pies of pigeons or other things equally good, with vegetables of all kinds in season, peas, potatoes, cauliflowers, kidney beans, lettuces and whatever the season can produce. The most potent of ale and porter, the most chrystalline and cool water, are freely supplied, and wine for those that will; when those things have had ample respect paid to them, they vanish, and the table is covered with plum puddings and fruit tarts, cheesecakes, syllabubs, and all the knicknackery of whipt creams and jellies that female invention can produce, and then a dessert of equal profusion."

But really, Mr. Editor, I will not tantalize you and myself by enumerating all the good things, but if you have not read the work from which I have quoted so largely, do read it. The author then goes through tea, and finishes up with a substantial supper of hot game, fowls, &c. He then concludes the chapter by remarking, "such is a specimen of the festivities of what may be called the middle and substantial class of farmers; and the same thing holds, in degree, to the very lowest grade of them."

If this be a true picture, which I know it to be, you must agree with me that S. W. has paid a very poor compliment to the industry and intelligence of our American farmers, to suppose that with a climate similar to England, they would be reduced to live on turnips and pea soup, oat cakes and potato broth. B. M.

For the New Genesee Farmer.

Book-Farming.

MR. EDITOR—I have been an attentive reader of several agricultural papers for four or five years past, and trust I have been well paid in the knowledge gained; at any rate I have received from them much gratification. I think one great benefit to be derived from their perusal, is the exciting a spirit of enquiry.

I have been termed among my neighbors an experimental "Book Farmer." I have failed in many things, and succeeded in others, but in the most important of all, that is in making money, I have met with a total failure. I propose, therefore, to give to my brother Farmers my practice and experience in full, and my opinions rather generally, on a variety of subjects, although somewhat disconnected, and yet such as I believe have an important bearing on the true interest of the farmer. If you deem them worthy of insertion in your valuable paper, I shall feel much gratified in having furnished them. My motto is, that every disease has a remedy; but we must first point out the disease, before we shall be likely to discover the remedy.

Would not agricultural papers benefit the farmers still more, if they would examine more fully the Statistics of the Country; and instead of urging us on to over-production in some things, tell us how we may raise enough (and no more than enough) to supply the market, and at the same time get the greatest returns for our labor. In my opinion, much more money would have been made by the farmers, if they had been timely informed of the amount of Pork in market kept over from last year, and how much would be required this year to supply the demand, being myself convinced that if there had not been more than one half of the surplus produced this year, that the farmers would now have had more corn in the crib, and the one half would have put more money in their pockets, than the whole amount of the proceeds of their pork has done. Such are my views of the effect that supply and demand has in establishing prices. On this branch of the subject and some others which I wish to discuss hereafter, there is a broad field left wholly uncultivated, that needs deep ploughing with a "strong team." I shall attempt only to clear off some of the underbrush, and leave the use of the subsoil plough to some one who drives a "stronger team," as I am admonished that my stumbling ponies will not be able to do the work effectually.

The manufacturing, commercial and mercantile interests, have for a long time supported papers devoted exclusively to their interests. They have read and collected the statistics of the country and they better understand the law of supply and demand, and ability to pay, than the farmers. What would the manufacturers think, if the papers devoted to their interests were to stimulate them to produce or manufacture twice as much as was required for consumption, when the same article could not be exported except at a loss of 50 or 100 per cent, on the first cost?

I wish to cast no censure—my only object is to awaken a spirit of inquiry. The farmers in this country never have been awake to their interests. They have been content to let others do their thinking for them, and as long as they continue on in that course, they may expect the certain consequence—that,

"In every land, and on every soil,
Those who *think*, will govern those who toil."

And if we surrender those inestimable privileges to others, on the account of our stupidity, how can we expect that our interests will be properly attended to?

We ought to pursue, in my judgment, a more *definite* system in all our operations. We ought to know the precise and relative cost of all our productions—in every state, on every degree of latitude and longitude, and according to the several specified modes of cultivation as practised by a majority of the American farmers. With such data before us, we should be able to under-

stand and adapt our productions to the soil and climate, and turn our attention to the cultivation of that which was most profitable, and consequently keep up a more steady equilibrium of prices. As it is, I am satisfied that some few of our products yield us a fair compensation for our labor; and that there are others which might do so, which we do not now cultivate; but there are many more that do not yield us one half of the expense of cultivation at present prices, counting labor worth but fifty cents per diem. It is a mistake to suppose that one mode of cultivation or kind of production, will answer equally well for every section of our diversified soil and climate. What is profitable in one section is unprofitable in another.

I fully agree in every particular with your valuable correspondent, W. Garbutt, in what he has said, in his comparison of English and American agriculture; and I would apply the same reasoning to the different sections of our own country. It may be profitable or good economy to cultivate roots on a large scale for feeding stock in the vicinity of our cities and large towns, where laborers are more plenty, land dear, and hay worth from ten to twenty dollars per ton; but from my own practice and experience, I am convinced that it has cost me on my farm from fifty to one hundred per cent more to winter a creature on roots, than it has on hay.

Permit me here to remark, (with a desire not to appear censorious, as it certainly is contrary to my feelings,) that the agricultural papers, in recommending a system of cultivation, have not duly considered the natural differences of soil, climate, prices of labor, products, lands, &c.; but have too generally recommended the same system for every section of country. Or perhaps, they have supposed that the farmers themselves would take those things into consideration; but the farmers omitted to use their mental faculties, and consequently have failed in their first experiments, which is the cause of some of our best farmers entertaining strong prejudices against what they sneeringly term "Book Farmers."

I was much pleased with the manner which you treated the subject of a threatened withdrawal of patronage, because you admitted an article in your paper that did not correspond with the views of some of your subscribers, on the subject of Protective Duties. You say, and say truly, that it is a matter of great national importance, and a question that concerns the farmers as much or more than any other class; and further, that you are willing to hear, and let your readers hear what may be said on both sides of that great question. I have read several times, and with great satisfaction, the article in your January number complained of. I consider it a spirited, well written article, and an honor to the head and heart of the writer as containing the sentiments of a true American, and perfectly free from the "advocacy of British interests." I ask your respected friends, if they have not seen much stronger articles in the Farmer in favor of protective duties than on the opposite side of the question, or the one signed S. W., the article objected to. Suppose that S. W. or myself should threaten to withdraw our patronage on that account, what would you think of us? would you not say that our cause was a bad one, if it would not bear discussion and investigation, or

"He that will not reason is a bigot,
He that dare not is a slave."

But, Mr. Editor, you need not fear that S. W. will withdraw his patronage of 50 cents or 50 dollars, because a portion of your correspondents differ with him on that subject. I will vouch for him, although an entire stranger to me; yet I am certain he does not fear free discussion.

Should you consider my desultory remarks worthy of a place in the Farmer, I propose giving at some future time, an estimate in detail of the first cost of producing the several agricultural products of Michigan, founded on an assumed basis, of improved land at $20 per acre, labor at 50 cents per day (by the year), and 6 per cent interest on the capital invested, which is not very far from the real standard. And trust that some one, if not all, of your correspondents, in the different sections of this glorious country, will concur with my views on this subject, and made is manifest by sending in their estimates in detail, with all the circumstances, whys and wherefores, for publication.

J. S. DUTTON.

Monroe, Michigan, 1842.

Reply to Zelia.--Defence of Farmer's Wives and Daughters.

Mr. Editor—I would not intrude upon your patience so soon again, if I did not feel a little excited about some of Zelia's remarks, which, though good and full of interest, I consider as not applicable to farmers, their wives and their daughters generally. I commend the discretion and wisdom she is anxious to enforce, but would guard against views which I conceive to be erroneous

In the first place, she calls upon women to consider whether their influence goes to promote temperance, industry and their natural results, or the opposite. These considerations deserve the attention of every mother and daughter, every father and son. The mind and the body are so connected, that the occupation and condition of the one sensibly affects the other. When we labor with our hands, our minds almost unconsciously imbibe sentiments and feeling which the employment is adapted to inspire. When we open our hearts to the influence of piety and compassion, our hands are prompted to acts which may alleviate the sorrow and distress our eyes behold. For this reason, it is judicious and highly desirable for all persons to employ their minds and thoughts in a manner that may actuate their hands to perform their duty; and study to use physical strength in a manner that may impart to the mind the satisfaction resulting from a useful and virtuous life.

She farther adds, "that she believes it is generally admitted, that the extravagance that characterizes our age, the enormous expenditures of time and money on mere trinkets, is the predominant cause of the embarrassments of our times. I suppose that politicians would differ on this point. Be that as it may, I really do not believe that the trinkets of the farmers, their wives or daughters, would amount to a vast sum. They generally understand too well that their money is hardly earned, and therefore prize it too highly to trifle it away. I should have supposed that Zelia intended her remarks for a certain class, to which it would be very applicable, if she had not said "no particular class is exempt from the charge." Now I contend that farmers, as a general thing, are exempt from extravagance in any thing, except the idea that they are too poor to lay out a great many dollars in enlarging, cultivating and ornamenting the minds or persons of their children, or of affording themselves the means of useful instruction. Not that I would advise or wish any one to live beyond their means; not so, but every one should study to make themselves useful, and use the means which God has given them to elevate and improve, to refine and polish, the mental powers and personal qualities, for which the means of improvement have been so amply provided. I should be sorry to indulge any unjust prejudice, but the farmers are more exempt from this reproach of extravagance than the working classes of the cities and villages, as they live more secluded from the fashionable and vain, and consequently have less to tempt their love of show and splendor.

Again she says, "all have lived beyond their means, beyond the limits of common sense and prudence," &c. I must think if Zelia were as well acquainted with the habits and management of farmers as I am, she would not have said all. That they have been to a degree involved in the general ruin and distress that pervades the country, I do not deny. But that it has been brought upon them through the mismanagement and extravagance of their wives and daughters, or even their own, I cannot admit. That the merchants and mechanics, the professional men, and the drones, have long indulged in a vain and deceitful ostentation and extravagance, is evident. But the farmers, although their produce has been much of the time almost unmarketable, and when sold, sold at reduced prices and on credit, still by the persevering industry of themselves, their wives and their daughters, and the economical management of their business affairs, they have braved the storm of broken banks and broken credit, broken fortunes and broken spirits; and by a uniform course of good policy and praiseworthy self-denial of the dainties and luxuries of life, they have saved their own and many other fortunes. How seldom do we hear of a farmers breaking or losing his farm, except through the generous endeavor to save an unfortunate friend or falling neighbor, or by some rash trade or speculation, wholly foreign from his proper pursuit as a farmer.

Again she says, "no person or people who consume more than they produce, can long escape being enslaved some way or other." As Zelia has made no exceptions before, I conclude she did not intend any here. There may be some it is true, among the farmers, that are possessed of a false and vain ambition; but I fancy they are few, compared with those who deem time and money expended in the cultivation of the mind and person, as almost wasted and improperly applied. It must be evident, that this paragraph cannot touch the farmers, who support the whole combined mass of all classes; the high and the low, the great and the small. If instead of confounding the industrious and frugal wives and daughters of the land with the city automatons and village dolls, who view labor as degrading, and those who labor as slaves, if Zelia had made a wise distinction, and directed her remarks to those whose views are bound up in purposes of ambition, or their lives consumed in a round of idle indulgences of fashionable dissipation, and who subsist only on the plunder of the fruits of the industry of other men, instead of implicating the industrious and independent yeomanry, then I would heartily have accorded in her views. But Zelia, this will never answer—we have come within an inch of politics—and shall be very likely to get a lecture, or an excommunication, either of which would be—dreadful.

But to atone, Zelia, for the liberties I have taken, let me say, had you and I lived in ancient times, and I had happened to have been a priestess at the temple of Delphos, I would have consecrated in golden letters (with the precepts there) your remarks. "I am not desirous of curtailing the pleasures of life, or hoarding up riches for their own sake; but would recommend such true economy as will promote permanent and rational happiness; and enable us to do good where the opportunity presents itself. For any other purpose the acquisition of wealth is scarcely worth a thought."

Let this ever be our motto; to combine in a consistent and reasonable manner, the useful with the refined and the ornamental. FLORA.

Ploughing in Vegetable Crops to Enrich the Land.

We publish to day a communication of "Turnip-seed" (pray take some other name) on the subject of "Growing Wheat on Inverted Greensward;" to this we are glad to add a communication of Mr. Tufts of Le Roy, on the subject of destroying Canada This-

dles, and his brother's experiment of raising wheat on the same ground. To this we shall hereafter add the experiment of Mr. Kelly in Haverhill, Mass., on raising a crop of rye after ploughing in a crop of chinlock. This account was given to the public in the Transactions of the Essex Agricultural Society, and afterwards in Colman's First Report of the Agriculture of Massachusetts. It will be found of the highest importance. The whole of these communications bear upon the same point, the great value of vegetable matter turned under for the manure of the ensuing crop.

We shall take occasion here to relate a case of our own, from which we ourselves, if no other person, derived some instruction. We had in our employ at the time two Englishmen, bred farmers from their childhood, and skilled and competent in every branch of husbandry. We gave them an acre of land, a clover ley, and desired them to prepare for and cultivate it in turnips after their own fashion, engaging on our part to offer in no way either advice, interruption, or interference. A crop of clover had been taken off early, and they then proceeded to plough and harrow the land thoroughly, and then to pick out every root and every particle of grass left, putting it into small piles, and burning it on the ground, giving the land as they termed it a thorough *cleaning*. The land was highly manured afterwards, and the crop of turnips was good and cultivated in drills in a very fine style; but we had no doubt at the time and have as little now, that it was a great error to rob the ground of all this vegetable refuse; that the crop was less than it would have been but for this abstraction; and the fertility of the land reduced for a length of time. The land was afterwards laid down to grass, and we were satisfied suffered much from this *thorough cleaning*.

On Growing Wheat on Inverted Sward.

Mr. Colman—Allow me to call your attention to an article in the January number of your paper for this year, on page six, entitled "Three Experiments in Wheat Growing," and signed by "Agricola," dated Greece, Monroe county, N. Y.

I am myself, like Agricola, a young farmer, and have likewise been a merchant, and have also a friend to advise me respecting my farming operations, to whom I showed the above article in your paper this morning, at the same time asking his advice about practicing upon the above experiments of Agricola.

He objected entirely to the manner and method of the second experiment, but finally said that it might possibly do to treat a clover lot after that manner, that it, i. e. the clover) would be killed, and what when there was would be clean, but did not believe it would produce a good crop—that the seed could not be well covered and would be liable to freeze out—that the ground would be hard beneath the surface, and the grain would not be well rooted. He did not believe the third method would answer at all, as the natural grasses would never be killed, and would grow up in the spring and destroy what wheat did grow, which he believed would be but little.

He said that there were a great many things written for agricultural papers which would not bear examination, and he believed that this was one of them. That many theories were advanced rashly without being sufficiently experimented upon, and that he did not believe that either the second or third method was as good as the first, viz: old fashioned summer fallowing.

On page eight of same paper, in an editorial to readers and correspondents, "Agricola" is welcomed to your columns and a desire expressed to hear often from im.

I presume that desire would not have been expressed, if the editor did not think well of his communication and believed what 'Agricola' stated was substantially true, and that the experiments had been actually made.

The object of this communication is to ask if Mr. Colman has any personal knowledge of his correspondent, or whether if in Mr. Colman's knowledge the practice of summer fallowing has given way to 'Agricola's' system, in any of the numerous farming districts which he has visited, and with what success. Perhaps this communication, if published, may draw out 'Agricola' once more, but I hope not angrily at the doubt thrown out about the results of his practice and experiments.

Respectfully your ob't ser'vt,

TURNIPSEED.

New Windsor, Orange Co., N. Y.

Editorial remarks on the above.

In reply to the inquiries of 'Turnipseed' we have only to say that the authority of Agricola for the three experiments in wheat growing, deserves his entire confidence. We have known the system practiced upon by two of the best farmers in the whole country, Earl Stimpson of Galway, Saratoga county, N. Y., and Elias Phinney of Lexington, Mass. We have known, likewise, other cases, where the same husbandry has been pursued. Success, however, must essentially depend upon the manner in which the ploughing is executed; the sward should be so neatly and completely inverted that all the growing vegetable matter may be covered. The decay of this vegetable matter will furnish nutriment for the growing plant.

Another point, which is not generally understood, but is so well settled by the experience of judicious farmers, given without concert with each other and without knowledge of the opinions of each other, that it may be considered as ascertained, is that it is much better to plough in this vegetable matter after it has become perfectly ripe, decayed or dead, than in a green or succulent state. For spring grain there would of course be no difficulty in doing this: to wait for this in autumn might carry the sowing on too late in the season. We shall not enter into the philosophy of this, though good reasons may be given; the fact is all about which in the present case we are concerned; and that we deem established.

As to the objections of the sceptical friend of Turnipseed they do not surprise us. We admit that a great many things are written for and suggested in agricultural papers, which are not well established and which must rest upon the responsibility of those who offer them. Where they are clearly erroneous and would be likely to lead our friends into mistakes, we certainly should accompany them with a caution. Where we know them to be well founded and important, we should, if we deemed it necessary, endorse them. Where they are doubtful or altogether speculative, they must pass with our readers for just what they deem them worth; but they are surely not to be considered as *our* views because we insert them, nor in any case, unless we openly and directly approve them. An agricultural journal must be open to free discussion on all subjects connected with husbandry; and though we have a tolerable measure of confidence in our own judgment, we claim no infallibility, and will not reject statements or opinions of respectable correspondents because they may not quadrate with our own.

As to the other objections of his sceptical friend, which spring out of his superabundant self-confidence, we hardly think they deserve a grave answer. There are a good many men in the world, who have never yet found out that the earth turns round and it is quite probable they never will. Let such men calculate their own almanacs, and let us be thankful that the cause of an improved or an improving agriculture, or any other cause of public or private improvement, is not left in their hands. Put such men into a canal boat under full way, and you could not make them acknowledge that the boat moved; no, it is only the land running away from them, they *know* it because they *see* it.

Army Worm and Cut Worm.

(Extract of a letter dated Maumee City, June 21.)

The army worm is making dreadful ravages in this county and in some other parts of the state, taking whole pieces of wheat and mowing grass* nearly clean as they go—or at least so much as to ruin the crop. The cut worm hab also done very much damage this spring, cutting off almost entire fields of corn. I saved mine by one of the three following operations, or by them all combined. First, by ploughing my bottom lands very early in the spring, say first of March: secondly, ploughing lightly and dragging thoroughly just before planting; and thirdly, I soaked my seed in saltpetre water 24 hours before planting. What think you?

I was less fortunate in my garden: the cut worm took almost every thing, and finally I set out a large patch of cabbages and they took them clean. After a good rain I set out more, using as many of the common preventives as I could hear of, but all to no purpose; and the second day they had ruined about 200 plants. About 5 o'clock of that day I received your excellent paper at the office, and by the time I reached home I found a remedy recommended; I immediately set about it, and put about a table spoonfull (of salt) around the stalk of every remaining plant, and in the morning, to my astonishment, not another plant had been touched, neither has one been injured since. So much for being a subscriber to the New Genesee Farmer. When will all my brother farmers learn wisdom at so cheap a rate.

J. W. SMITH.

We give the above from a valued correspondent, not presuming to endorse it with much confidence, after the trial of a single night. A table spoonful of salt, applied directly to a plant in this way, is quite as likely to kill the plant as the worm. About as much as is recommended to be applied to a pigeon's tail in attempting to catch them, would certainly be much safer. Salt intermixed with the manure or laid *near*, but not *in contact* with the plants, may have the desired effect, but on this subject let us have experiments.—*Ed.*

*They only eat herds grass—they do not touch clover

Non-Resident Lands in Michigan.

THE undersigned respectfully announces to the public, that he has opened an Office in this city for the specific object of acting as general Agent for the payment of Taxes on non-resident Lands, now, or hereafter to become due, in any of the Counties of this state and he will visit himself, or by a trusty person, each of the Counties, to obtain all necessary information upon the subject.

Persons wishing taxes paid in any of the Counties in Michigan, and forwarding to the undersigned the necessary amount of fun s free of postage, together with an accurate description of their lands, may rest assured that their interests shall be scrupulously attended to.

His charges will at all times be reasonable, and proportioned to the services rendered.

The undersigned will endeavor to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the value of Lands in every part of the State that he may be enabled to give information to all enquirers; and if desired, will undertake the sale of the same.

He begs leave most respectfully to refer as to character, and capacity to redeem the pledges above given, to the annexed certificates.

J. L. WHITING.

Detroit, March 4, 1840.

Detroit, March 5, 1840.

I think such an office as is proposed by Dr. J. L. Whiting highly necessary for the convenience of the community, and that he is exceedingly well qualified by long residence in Michigan, much knowledge of the country, strict integrity, a decorrect business habits, for the duties of the proposed Agency.

C. C. TROWBRIDGE,
Pres't Bank of Michigan.

I concur fully in the sentiments and opinions expressed in the above note of Mr. Trowbridge. Detroit March 5, 1840.

WM. WOODBRIDGE, Governor of Michigan.

I have been acquainted with Dr. J. L. Whiting for many years, and fully concur in the views above expressed by Mr. Trowbridge.

E. FARNSWORTH, Chancellor.

Sayings and Doings, No. 1.--Wintering Sheep.

Mr. Editor—It was a saying, it is said, of the notorious Sam Patch, "that some things could be done as well as others." His last fatal leap from the falls of your beautiful city, tells us that the maxim is true in part only. He had already, by his famous leaps, sufficiently immortalised himself. They were considered hazardous experiments—being repeated, they ended in a sacrifice of life.

Thus are we reminded, that, though many things may be accomplished, they should never be attempted—and that we should always avoid all rash and hazardous experiments. I do not wish to be understood as being hostile to all 'experimenting and improvement,' nor do I wish to be forever plouding and digging after something new. Well would it be for us all, if we would exercise a little caution and timidity, and were less daring and adventurous. So much for an introduction.

At the commencement of the winter of '41, fearing that I had not sufficient feed provided to keep all my stock in good condition through the winter, I was forced upon an untried experiment,—of keeping my flocks of sheep on oats and straw. I am aware that sheep had been kept on grain and straw through a part of the winter, with success; still I was apprehensive of evil in feeding on grain and straw exclusively, through the entire winter—as they were ewes, of mature age, and with lamb.

I gave to a flock of 105, one bushel of clean or threshed oats per day, and what wheat straw they needed—fed in boxes. (For description and diagram see May No. of the Cultivator.)

And now need I say, Mr. Editor, that when a boy I was shepherd, a young man, still a shepherd, for I fed my flocks! With an experience of 12 or 15 years in sheep husbandry, I am prepared to speak knowingly, (excluding all boasting) that I never knew a flock that were wintered *on* hay, that were finer in appearance and condition. The sheep, of course, were protected, their appetite at all times was good, devouring their food with greediness—consuming all, and using boxes, wasting none—and in candor, there was no appearance of sickness or disease among them, and their progeny were strong and thrifty.

And now let the credulous and unbelieving follow me a little farther, while I prove, I trow to their satisfaction, that sheep may be wintered more *cheaply* on grain and straw, than they can be on hay.

In my estimate of the expense of wintering a flock of 100 sheep, of mature age, I deem 12 tons of good hay hardly sufficient, if fed as they should be; however, taking it for granted that it is enough, in few words, the account stands thus:

12 tons of hay, at $6 per ton,	$72 00

I fed to the flock in question, (perhaps I should not omit to say they were high grade Saxons) 105, one bushel of clean or threshed oats per day—150 days—the oats were worth two shillings per bushel and no more.

150 bushels of oats at 25 cents,	$37,50
15 loads of straw,	15,00
	$52,50

We find, therefore, the expense of feeding oats to be $52,50, and a saving of $19,50,—a small item it is true, but worth looking after in these times.

I followed up my experiment of '41, and kept the past winter a flock of 75 of the same description of sheep, and succeeded equal to my expectations. Instead of giving them oats exclusively, I gave an equal quantity of bran, and again find a difference quite as great as before.

75 bushels of oats at 34 cents,	$25,50
75 do bran at 6 cents,	4,50
15 loads of straw,	15.00
	$45,00

Feeding hay in the same quantity and proportion as before, we should have need

9 tons, at $7 per ton,	$63,00
Making a difference of	$18,09

The average price of oats this winter in Tompkins county, is 34 cents, and hay has sold abundantly for $7 per ton. Another small item, you perceive, Mr. Editor, and if economy be the watch word of every farmer, then let us look to these things, and disregard them not.

Yours, &c. C. M.

Ludlowville, May, 1842.

The above communication we consider well deserving the attention of farmers. Feeding upon hay exclusively must be considered, in respect to almost all animals, as the most expensive of all feed. A large portion of the stock in Great Britain we suppose is kept upon straw and turnips, and much of it fatted upon the same feed. It were very much to be desired that our farmers should raise some succulent feed for their stock, to mix, during our long winters, with their dry feed. On the ground of economy, as well as regard to the health of their animals, this may be strongly urged upon them. We have made repeated experiments in feeding horses and oxen upon cut straw and meal, and have found it a great saving, certainly a third of the expense, over the mode of feeding them with hay. We shall subjoin to Mr Morell's account, a statement of Mr. Bard on the same subject, published in the Memoirs of the New York State Agricultural Society, vol. II, which is confirmatory of the results of the experiment detailed above.

Letter from W. Bard, Esq., on Wintering Sheep on Cut Straw and Meal.

My Dear Sir—Though late to do so, I will now answer the inquiries you make relative to the manner in which I fed my sheep last winter. I was fearful of wanting hay before spring, and determined to try the experiment of feeding a flock of one hundred wethers on cut straw and Indian meal. I began when they were first put up for the winter, and continued one plan of feeding till they were turned out in the spring on pasture. I allow six quarts of straw and half a pint of Indian meal, mixed with water, to each sheep per day; it was fed at three times. Now and then, they had an armful of hay thrown to them, perhaps 200 wt. in the course of the winter. I lost none of them. When turned to pasture they were in good health, and apparently as active and strong as my other sheep. They sheared about three pounds of wool per head. Their bellies were not swelled out like the bellies of my other sheep which had hay and water; they had a gauniness I did not like. Whether this was owing to the quality of the food, to their not being allowed enough of it, or to their not getting through the winter any water, excepting the little that mixed the straw and meal, I can not tell.

I have somewhat altered my plan of feeding this winter. I feed all my sheep round once a day, in the morning, with hay, and give them meal and straw in the middle of the day and at night, allowing them two thirds the quantity of meal and straw per day which I allowed them last winter. I consider this higher feeding, and the mixing long and short feed may be an advantage. I shall be better able to say in the spring which I like best; at present my sheep look very well; they are fond of the meal and straw. One man tends 420, and cuts the straw for them.

I remain, with great respect,
Your obedient servant,
WM. BARD.

To G. W. Featherstonhaugh.

Winter Farm Management.

Friend Bateham—Agreeably to your request and my promise, I herewith send you a few facts in relation to that subject of subjects, Agriculture. And I must here premise that in all my life I have written but three articles for publication, and that last year was the commencement of my farming operations. I was necessarily absent much of the season, consequently, as you will perceive, I am rather *green* in both departments of the above named business. I make no pretensions to agricultural knowledge, except what I have learned from my numerous agricultural works and a few months observation, and as the result of which allow me to state a few facts, and first in relation to the manner in which I have wintered my stock.

This consists of twenty-six head of cattle, principally full blooded and grade Durhams, and twelve horses, nearly all thorough bred. Four of the horses have been worked and kept at hay and grain all the time, and two others part of the winter, the remainder of the entire stock have been securely tied up during the night under good sheds, and *regularly* fed twice a day, in strong plank mangers, with as much corn stalks, cut up at the roots, as they could eat; on which, after being cut up in a cutting box about one inch long and properly wet, has been put corn and cob meal, nicely incorporated with it, at the rate of four quarts to each animal daily, or about two quarts of Indian meal.

Perhaps some one will say that that amount of meal with plenty of good hay, would have answered just as well, and saved all the time and trouble of cutting and preparing the food; but hold on friend, we'll make a "*pint*" there. Hay is worth here fourteen dollars per ton. Now according to the usual estimate in such cases, my stock would have consumed about fifty tons of hay, amounting to, at that price, seven hundred dollars. My corn stalks were cut from fourteen acres of corn ground, when the corn was newly glazed, all sound and in good condition. The expense of carting the stalks to my barn I consider more than paid, in the advantage and pleasure of tilling the crop the following year, when compared with the slovenly manner so often adopted in Ohio, in having a corn swamp in the field to clog the plough, confuse the team, and after the corn is ready to plough and hoe, at least two boys ought to follow the plough to act as resurrectionists, and to bind up the broken backs of the young corn.

But we will say corn stalks from 14 acres, at $5 per acre,	70,00
Five months, or 150 days feeding 32 head, 4 quarts per day each, corn and cob meal 600 bushels; corn worth here 25 cents, corn and cob meal say 20 cents,	120,00
Extra expense between cutting stalks and foddering hay 20 shillings per month for 5 months or 150 days,	12,50
Making the expense of wintering my stock on stalks and meal,	$202,50
Which, when taken from the estimate above of $700, leaves the snug sum of	$198,00

Again, during the fore part of March I had a job of work which I wanted done with dispatch, and no time seemed to be left for cutting stalks, and I told my foreman to give my stock their usual quantity of meal with as much good hay as they would eat. This lasted about a week or ten days, and at the end of the time I was astonished when told by the wife of my foreman that the milch cows had decreased over one half in their milk. We immediately returned to the usual feed and with it returned the usual quanty of milk.

Again—a very important consideration, to me at least, is that my stock are all fat; many of them good beef; and I don't believe that with all the good hay they could eat, even with the above quantity of meal per day, they would have been in as good condition. Several of my cows, which will calve in from four to six weeks, now give from six to eight quarts of milk daily. The beautiful patent cutting box which you sent me last fall, I consider one of the greatest improvements of the age; it has cut all my corn stalks

butts and all, together with much other stuff, and has never cost me a shilling for repairs. A man can, in one hour, cut 40 bushels with it; but this season I design getting a portable horse power, which, when attached to it, can cut up a small 'haymow' of corn stalks in a short time. And now friend, have I settled that "*pint*"—$500 saved in hay—fat cattle, plenty of milk, lots of butter to sell every week at 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb., while it is scarce, and any quantity of manure to return to that land which my neighbors told me I would ruin by taking off that cane brake, and fat teams to draw it. I had designed mentioning other subjects, but as this has been extended beyond its designed limits, I must postpone their consideration until some future time.

I remain very respectfully yours,

JNO. W. SMITH.

Knagg's Farm, Maumee City, 1842.

The subjoined article from the Farmer's Gazette, published at New Haven, is entitled to particular attention as from one of the most intelligent friends of Agricultural Improvement in the state of Connecticut, upon whose carefulness and exactness in experimenting and reporting his experiments, entire reliance may be placed.—*Ed.*

USE OF PLASTER.

Mr. Storer—In answer to the inquiry of your subscriber from Cheshire, as to the best time to sow Plaster of Paris, I will give the result of my observation and experience, and detail the mode and the time of its application, without in every instance stopping to assign the reasons, since that would render my communication of an unreadable length. By the way, the inquiry in its form, is as pertinent as it would be to ask, "when is the best time for a man to sneeze?" as if a man might sneeze but once a year.

A vague impression has prevailed that this article is of little value as a manure near the sea shore; yet no detailed experiments have been tried which at all favor that idea. On the contrary, when they have been carefully made, results directly the reverse have been obtained.

The truth is, as suggested in the report of the Executive Committee of the Agricultural Society published in your paper last fall, and, as stated in the "Transactions of the Society for promoting Agriculture in Connecticut," referred to by you in your last number, too little attention is paid to the manner in which plaster is ground.

All the ground plaster I have been able to find in this city is brought in casks from Maine, and is little finer than sand. In that condition it is of trifling value.

Plaster will *in time* be dissolved in some two thousand times its weight of water; but if in that state in what time, if ever, it will receive the requisite quantity of water, in such condition and at such temperature as will dissolve it, I leave it to your readers to conjecture. One thing is certain, that it is of no value unless dissolved, since it is supposed that its utility arises in a great measure from its uniting with and absorption of ammonia from snow and rain. This it is evident it can not do while it remains in the form of sand. If however the article is perfectly floured—is ground so fine that it has a rich oily feeling and no grit can be perceived between the fingers, it is perfectly obvious to any one who will observe and reflect, that it is far better adapted for immediate and powerful effect. Not until plaster thus ground is proved by actual and careful experiment to be of no value on the sea coast, shall I at all doubt that the opinion which now prevails arises from causes here pointed out.

To me this is the more obvious from an examination of the extent of this opinion. Around our city, and so far in the interior as ground plaster is carried from here, this belief exists. Twenty miles northward, where the article is obtained from Moore's Mills in Berlin, in its most perfect condition for use, it is considered indispensable. So also in the western and north-western portions of the county, where it is procured from Derby, and is said to be well ground. it is used in very considerable quantities, and with evident benefit.

Plaster may be sown to advantage on meadows in the fall, where it is not liable to be washed away. It then combines with the ammonia in the snows and abundant rains of winter and spring. If not sown in the fall or winter, it is well to sow it upon a light snow if possible in the spring. Permit me also to remark, that this is the best time to sow grass seed,—clover for instance,—on grain lands sown in the fall previous, when from any circumstance it is not deemed expedient to sow the grass seed with the grain in the fall.

On the ground sown with grass seed, it is important that the young plants should receive the benefit of its application as early as may be in the spring.

Many persons have tried plaster on pasture grounds, and have found as they think, no advantage from its use; and why? They sow a part of a lot on which cattle run at large, expecting of course the feed on the part thus sown to be much fresher and fuller through the season; but as they in fact find the herbage shorter and apparently less thrifty, they very naturally infer that the plaster does no good. More careful attention would convince them that there is more in this matter than they dream of. The cattle soon ascertain the part on which the plaster was sown, on account of the superior sweetness and succulence of the herbage, and are found feeding continually upon it. This I have seen beautifully illustrated on my own farm, by sowing in different years different lots out of a range in which my stock was pastured. The cattle always made their head quarters in the lot which had received the plaster, and kept the feed short in that while it was abundant in the others.

On pastures it is also well to sow early, because of the more frequent rains of the spring. Some farmers, however, whose pastures are abundant in the spring, and early summer, reserve their plaster until near the close of summer, in order to induce a fresh growth for fall feed. Many also, who have tried sowing early in the spring, and also in the fall, think that they derive more advantage in that way, than from sowing an equal quantity at one time.

Seed corn should be soaked in a solution of saltpetre and rolled in plaster. As soon as it is fully up, the corn should have a careful hoeing, and about a teaspoonful of plaster to each hill, or about one bushel to the acre. It should be scattered around the corn as much as is convenient in putting it on. If sown broadcast, the immediate effect is less, but the final result is about the same.

Potatoes should either be wet and rolled in plaster, or a small quantity should be thrown into the hill upon the seed before covering. Here I can not but beg of our farmers not to expose their seed potatoes to the rays of the sun, even for a single hour, since, unless the land be moist or the season prove exceedingly wet, the crop may be entirely ruined by so doing, and will under any circumstances be greatly retarded and lessened. Potatoes are benefited by larger quantities than are requisite for corn, and the application to them after hoeing should be liberal. From my own experience, and that of my neighbors, I consider plaster indispensable for this crop.

The farmers of this county are yet to learn the secret of raising potatoes, if, as I am led to believe, the average crop is less than two hundred bushels. Five hundred bushels have often been obtained from the acre in other parts of our state; and why not in this county? Some of our best land ought to produce as much as any other.

I have never perceived any beneficial effects from the direct application of plaster to rye, oats, or wheat, although those crops have been exceedingly fine on land which had previously been improved by the liberal use of plaster.

Turnep seed may with advantage be mingled with plaster at the rate of a bushel of plaster to the acre, and be sown broadcast in the field. The crop will be greatly benefited, and the seed easily and evenly sown if due care is exercised.

Plaster may also be used with great benefit on buckwheat. The seed should be prepared as seed corn, and plaster should be sown broadcast upon the young plants as they appear.

From a series of experiments in my garden last season, with plaster saturated with urine, I am satisfied that a great accession of the most powerful manure may be made to the farmer's stock, by strewing plaster in stables and elsewhere, so as to absorb all the urine. In this way, if his manure when thrown from his stable is protected from the rain, even by a shed only, he may obtain a great amount, little if any inferior to the boasted poudrette which sells at two dollars the barrel.

I wish it to be distinctly understood, that when I recommend Plaster of Paris, and speak of its effects. I refer only to that which is ground as fine as the finest flour. No other, as I view it, is worth the trouble of putting on to the land.

CHARLES ROBINSON.

New Haven, March 23d, 1842.

White Weed, or Ox-Eyed Daisy.

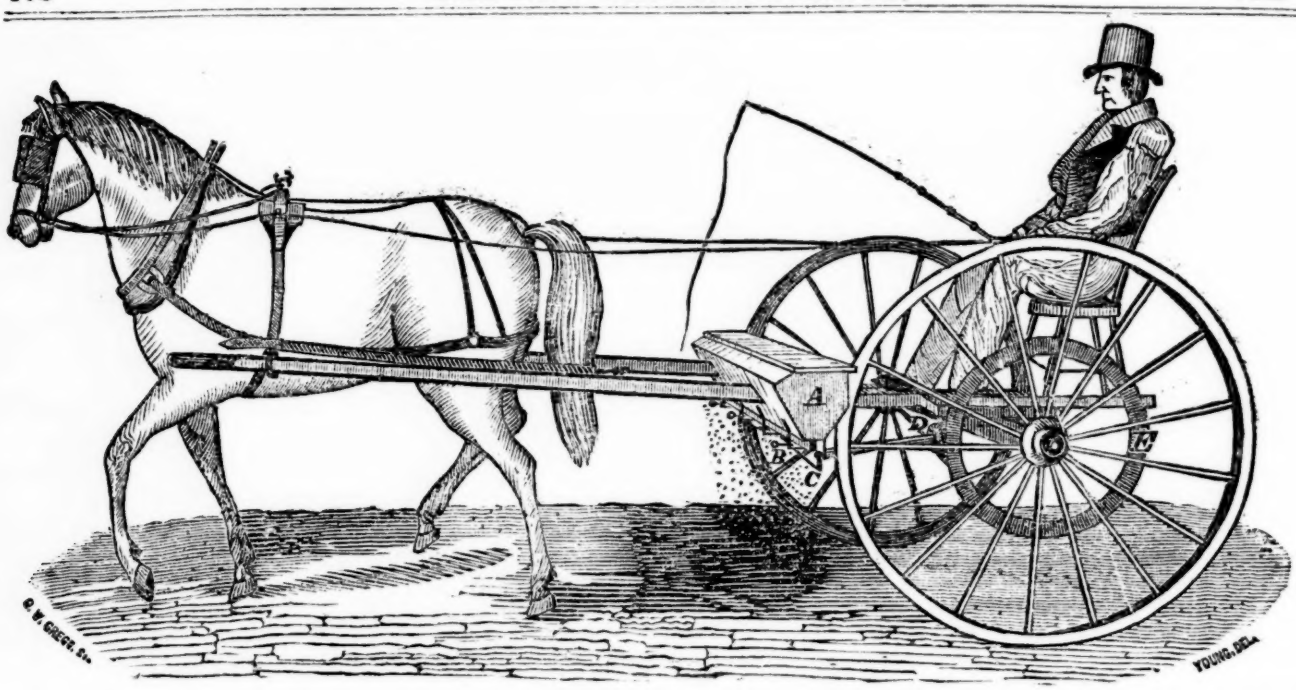
Mr. Editor—Will you or some of your correspondents have the goodness to inform me of the best method of exterminating white weed from fields and pasture lands? A Young Farmer.

We know no better way than to cultivate the land a year or two, and then lay it down with clean seed. In a barn yard where this weed is mixed with the hay that is used, the manure will of course be filled with the seed; or where manure is purchased from city stables, as in the neighborhood of Boston for example, where this weed abounds, this manure is undoubtedly in many cases surcharged with the seed. If the land is cultivated with corn for example, and kept thoroughly clean, and the ensuing year sowed with grain, without manure, and laid down as we observed above with clean seed, it will be mainly extirpated; but if any appears among the grass, we know no other way than to root it out thoroughly as fast as it appears by hand or hoe. Some farmers do not object to it as hay. Cattle and horses will eat some portion of it when cut early; but its free growth very much diminishes the crop of hay; and putting before them the best mixture you can find of herds-grass, red-top and clover, and an equal quantity of white weed in the best cured state, and we think they, brutes as they are, will have no difficulty in making a choice. We in such cases, if left to us, should be very apt to follow our nose.

Swiss Bulls and Cows.

The Swiss Cows have been much celebrated for their milking qualities, and a friend of ours, who has resided in Switzerland, has spoken of them in the most extravagant terms as exceeding any thing known. We concluded that he had never stood by the pail and that his glasses were of the very highest magnifying power. Another friend of ours, from these representations, was induced to write to Fellenberg, at the celebrated school at Hofwyl, in order to procure some of this stock. The difficulty of procuring and sending the animals at that time, prevented the success of the application. From Fellenberg's letter, which was at one time in our possession, we inferred that the statements commonly made of their yield, were not a little exaggerated; and the product of the cows, though very large, was not unsurpassed. If we understood the measures, their average yield in the best of the season, was about sixteen quarts per day, and from seven to eight quarts through the year. Tellenberg seemed to have no disposition to exagerate their good qualities. The breeders in England will, beyond a doubt, bring them to a fair trial, and determine the question of their superiority.

"*Swiss Bulls.*—We are authorised to make known, that four first rate two year old Swiss bulls, purchased for Sir Francis Mackenzie by Professor Agassiz, of Neufchatel, and which, after a search of many months by the best judges, were selected without regard to any limitation of price, as the very best all Switzerland could produce, are now on their way down the Rhine for London, where Sir F. has desired that all amateurs may have an opportunity of seeing them. Two of them are destined for Scotland; the other two Sir F. wishes to dispose of in England, at whatever may be deemed a fair price, even should he not be remunerated for his expenses and their cost, as he feels certain from what he has often seen in Switzerland of the beauty of their two breeds of cattle, combining great milking with fattening qualities—a thing so very desirable—that their blood could be crossed most advantageously to the improvement of our short-horns and other breeds. The best proof of their milking quality is, that no other cow is kept in Lombardy at the Parmesan cheese making dairies—and their shape will be seen by all good judges to show good fattening qualities. They will leave Basle about the 15th of May by steam, and may be expected in London about the 20th. Mr. P. Hanbury, letter, 15 Albany, will give information as to where they can be seen, or at 60, Lombard-street. They can remain in London but a very short time."—*Chateau de Talhouet, May 6th*, 1842.



HATCH'S SOWING MACHINE.

Having disposed of quite a number of these machines during the past season, they are now becoming extensively known, and the demand for them is rapidly increasing; the inventor has therefore increased his facilities for manufacturing, and is now prepared to furnish machines to order, at short notice. Every farmer is aware that sowing of grain by hand is one of the most laborious and difficult opperations of his profession, and one which but few men can perform correctly. This machine will sow all kinds of grain, grass seed and plaster, at any desired rate, from four quarts to four bushels per acre; and a man or smart boy, with a horse, will sow 25 acres per day. Besides the saving of time and labor, the product of the crop is increased by the perfect evenness with which it deposites the seed. The machines are made in the best manner and warranted—price $40.

It should here be observed that two or three of the machines first sold in this region were somewhat defective, and a few individuals may in consequence have been prejudiced against the invention. Others have complained that the machines would not sow damp plaster, but the inventor assures the public that this, and all other objections, are now obviated, as he will convince those who will apply to him.

State and County Rights will be sold on very favorable terms to any enterprising mechanics. Any infringements will be strictly attended to. All letters must be post paid. Address

JULIUS HATCH, Rochester, N. Y.

Instead of publishing the numerous and highly respectable certificates and recommendations which might be obtained, the inventor respectfully solicits farmers to call on any of the following well known gentlemen who possess the machines.

Rawson Harmon, jr., Sylvester Harmon, Elisha Harmon, Henry Rogers, Daniel Rogers, Isaac Cox, Wheatland.
T. H. Newbold, Caledonia.
Isaac Lacy, Chili.
Marvin Smith, Mendon.
H. Fellows, Samuel Miller, Penfield.
John Moxen, Asa Rowe, Greece.
Chester Scott, Elba.
Alva S. Hoyt, Batavia.
Jarvis Adams, Pittsford.
Jacob Clapp, Rush.
Aaron Banks, Riga.
H. Morrison, Parma.
David Brooks, Avon.
Wm. W. Gorham, Canandaigua.
P. L. Bonesteel, Victor.
J. W. Smith, Mumme City, Ohio.
John Johnston, Florence, Mich.
T. C. Legate, Galena, Ill.
J. M. Sherwood, Auburn.

As Mr. Hatch is not very extensively known, I cheerfully state that from an intimate acquaintance of the year past, I believe him to be a man of honor and integrity; and having repeatedly seen his machine in opperation, I do not hesitate to pronounce it the best machine in use for the purpose. I have also conversed with several farmers who have purchased and used them, and they express the highest satisfaction.

M. B. BATEHAM.

Rochester Seed Store, June, 1842.

HUSSEY'S REAPING MACHINE.

Having had frequent communications from Western farmers, to know if I could not deliver my Reaping Machine in Rochester for $120; I would inform them that I have two now in Rochester, which can be had for that price, by calling on Ebenezer Watts & Co. Orders for others at the same price will be duly noticed.

THOMAS R. HUSSEY.

AUBURN, N. Y., June 1842.

ROAD OR DIRT SCRAPERS

May be had at the Rochester Eagle Furnace. Price wood-ed, $5. Scrapers without wooding, $2.50.

June, 1842. A. J. LANGWORTHY.

Ruta Baga and Turnip Seed.

A NEW supply of genuine imported purple top Ruta Baga Seed,—also a full assortment of English and Scotch Turnip Seeds, for sale at the Rochester Seed Store and its agencies.

WHITE DUTCH CLOVER SEED, a fresh supply, receive at the Seed Store.

SILK WORM EGGS, of the large Sulphur and Peanut varieties, for sale at the Seed Store $1 per ounce.

June 1. M. B. BATEHAM.

Garden, Field, and Flower Seeds.

THE subscriber having established a large Seed Garden about one mile from the city, on Monroe street, would say to his old customers and others, that he is prepared to execute orders for seeds at wholesale or retail, on the most reasonable terms. By his long experience in the business in the Shaker Seed Garden at New Lebanon, and a determination to offer none seeds but such as are raised under his immediate inspection or imported from the most respectable establishments in Europe, and their vitality carefully tested, he therefore confidently expects to give the most ample satisfaction to all who may favor him with their patronage.

Orders for Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Flowering Roots, and Green House plants, promptly executed in their season. Selection made by the proprietor when requested.

Rochester, June 1. C. F. CROSMAN.

Rochester Plough Manufactory.

AT No. 99 State street, may be found a good assortment of ploughs of the most approved pattern—such as the Genesee, Cayuga County, Gibson's, Wood's, Rich's Side Hill and Shovel plough, also, Cultivators, Revolving Horse Rakes, Road Scrapers, and Canal Wheel Barrow.

Jun 1. P. D. WRIGHT & CO.

PLOUGHS.

A NEW AND SUPERIOR KIND OF PLOUGHS, (two sizes) designed for breaking up summer fallow, may be purchased at the Rochester Eagle Furnace,—price $8 and $7 each. Wood and other produce taken in exchange.

June, 1842. A. J. LANGWORTHY.

WHALE OIL SOAP—for destroying Bugs and Insects in Gardens, (see New Genesee Farmer, Vol. 2, p 118) For sale at the Rochester Seed Store

ROCHESTER PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED FOR THE NEW GENESEE FARMER, JULY 1, 1842.

WHEAT,	per bushel,	$ 1,19 a	$ 1,22
CORN,	"	41	44
OATS,	"	28	
BARLEY,	"	38	41
RYE,	"	53	56
BEANS, White,	"	75	1 00
POTATOES,	"	25	31
APPLES, Desert,	"	62	75
FLOUR, Superfine, per bbl		5 38	5,50
" Fine,	"	5,00	
SALT,	"	1,25	
PORK, Mess,	"	8,50	9,00
" per 100 lbs		3,00	
BEEF,	per 100 lbs	3,50	
FOULTRY,	per lb	7	
EGGS,	per dozen,	9	10
BUTTER, Fresh	per pound	10	12½
" Firkin,	"	10	
CHEESE,	"	6	7
LARD,	"	7	8
TALLOW, Clear,	"	8	
HIDES, Green	"	4	4¼
PEARL ASHES,	100 lbs	5,00	
POT,	"	4,75	
WOOL,	pound,	25	30
HAY,	ton,	8,00	10.00
GRASS SEED,	bushel,	1.50	1.75
CLOVER SEED,	"	5.50	6.00

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From the Power-Press of John I. Reilly & Co.